FBIS DAILY REPORT

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FBIS FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

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BRIEFS

WAR COLLEGE DIRECTOR--Buenos Aires, 19 Dec--Maj Gen Santiago Omar Riveros today installed Brig Gen Adan Jose Alonso as director of the Supreme War College. Alonso replaces Brig Gen Juan Manuel Bayon. [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1433 GMT 19 Dec 77 PY]

NEW NAVAL OPERATIONS CHIEF--Rear Adm Julio Antonio Torti was sworn in this morning as the new operations chief of the Navy General Staff and coordinator for the South Atlantic Maritime Area. [Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 2000 GMT 19 Dec 77 PY]

MILITARY HOUSEHOID CHIEF--Buenos Aires, 20 Dec--President Videla today installed Col Juan Garcia as the new chief of the military household. [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1745 GMT 20 Dec 77 PY]

NEW AIR FORCE COMMAND CHIEF--The new military chief of the air force command, Col Jorge Angel Schiappapietra, was sworn into his post by Air Force Commander Gen Orlando Ramon Agosti. The ceremony took place at the heliport in the Condor Building. [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1235 GMT 29 Dec 77 PY]

NEW TRADE SECRETARY--Buenos Aires, 20 Dec--Alejandro Manuel Estrada was sworn in today as new secretary of state for trade and international economic negotiations. [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1744 GMT 20 Dec 77 PY]

CGT INTERVENTOR--According to reliable sources, Col Juan Hipolito Nunez will become interventor of the General Labor Confederation [CGT]. Colonel Nunez will reportedly replace Col Julio Cesar Porcile, who will occupy another post. [Paris AFP in Spanish 1011 GMT 29 Dec 77 PY]

PRESIDENTIAL UNDER SECRETARY NAMED--The Executive Branch has named Col Roberto Augusto Ventura as legal and technical undersecretary of the General Secretariat of the Presidency. He is replacing Col Jose Miret, who is taking up another post in the air force. [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1420 GMT 26 Dec 77 PY]

TELEVISION RELAY STATIONS--Four television relay stations are to be installed in San Juan Province. The main station will be on the top of Pie de Palo Hill and the other three in Valle Fertil, Jachal and Calingasta. Work will begin next week, and it is hoped that the work will be concluded before the beginning of the World Soccer Championship. [Buenos Aires Radio El Mundo in Spanish 1500 GMT 29 Dec 77 PY]

MINERAL EXPORTS INCREASE--According to a report of the Mining Secretariat, Argentine mineral exports increased 58.1 percent in November this year as compared to the same month last year. The secretariat also reported that mineral exports for the first 11 months of this year amounted to $18 million, which means that there has been a 16.4 percent increase in comparison to the same period of last year. [Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 1 Jan 78 p 10 PY]

ARGENTINE AIRLINES TO BUY 727'S--Buenos Aires, 2 Jan--Argentine Airlines [AA] will invest $48 million in three Boeing 727/200 planes which will be assigned to the regional flights of this state-owned enterprise. This purchase has been authorized by the executive branch, whose decree was published in the official bulletin today. [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2100 GMT 2 Jan 78 PY]

WOMEN HUNGER STRIKERS WIN INCREASED SUPPORT

PY040146Y La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 5 Jan 78 PY

[Summary] Well informed sources reported to Radio Cruz del Sur today that a group of persons made up of workers and representatives of various pro-human rights organizations entered the building of the UN branch in La Paz this afternoon, and after talking to the officials there decided to stay there on a hunger strike in demand for a general amnesty and the reinstating of workers expelled for political or union reasons. Other sources indicated that the group had been expelled later by personnel of the national guard.

In the meantime, pressure is being applied to the government in demand for a general amnesty and the withdrawal of military units from various mines by means of hunger strikes. Three different groups are on hunger strike in La Paz: one at the archbishopric, the other at the building of the daily PRESENCIA and the third at the Maria Auxiliadora parish house. The groups are made up of relatives of exiled, imprisoned or outlawed workers and leaders, in addition to priests, union leaders and members of pro-human rights committees.

Many social, union and political organizations of the country have expressed solidarity with the strikers and their demands. The delegates of the Catavi miners indicated that they would join the hunger strike if the government failed to listen to the demands.

Progovernment sources criticized the attitude of the strikers, saying that they hinder the good intentions of the government to expand the amnesty, while spokesmen for the strikers indicated that what they wanted from the government was concrete answers and not general and vague promises which have never been fulfilled in the past.

The housewives of the Siglo XX miners also said that they would join the strikers if the government failed to order a general amnesty and the withdrawal of the troops from the mines, in addition to giving freedom to the unions.

While it was reported that the higher echelons of the Catholic Church are in constant contact with the government, the hunger strike at the archbishopric is about to enter its second week, and several of the women strikers have indicated that they are going on with it until their demands are fulfilled.

A last-minute report from Siglo XX indicates that (Estanislao Ramirez), member of the grassroots committee of Siglo XX, indicated that there will be an unscheduled meeting which will probably approve a 48-hour strike in support of the hunger strikes.

In a communique released today, the National Federation of Bolivian Mining Cooperatives stated its support for the women on hunger strike at the archbishopric. They demanded a general amnesty for exiles, prisoners and underground political leaders and the withdrawal of troops from mining enterprises.

The Student Interfaculty Committee of the Greater University of San Andres issued a manifesto supporting the hunger strike, which a group of women and children have been holding at the archbishopric since Wednesday. "The Interfaculty Committee called the measure one of the bravest undertaken by the Bolivian people in their quest for a much desired freedom." At the same time, the students criticized the attitude of the government in dealing with a problem which involves women and children.

Government Calls Women Stubborn

PY041812Y La Paz Radio Fides in Spanish 1130 GMT 4 Jan 78 PY

[Summary] "Interior Minister Guillermo Jimenez Gallo has accused the women on hunger strike in the La Paz Archbishopric of stubborness. The minister said that they are supported through the stands taken by some churchmen and political leaders." Jimenez Gallo was trying to explain the impasse in negotiations between government officials and the group of women. The interior minister said that the government will not grant an amnesty to any of the relatives of the women fasting in the archbishopric. "The Interior Ministry document [as heard] specifically mentions mineworkers leader (Pimentel), who is called a member of the National Liberation Army and a dangerous extremist." It is said that he should be handed over to an ordinary court for trial.

"The Interior Ministry asserts that no government official was approached by the women before the hunger strike to discuss the case of their relatives and that the strike was begun without any warning. It also says that Interior Ministry officials have tried to learn the motives of this extreme step, without getting any answer. It further says that the women continue stubbornly to maintain their demands for an unrestricted amnesty, the rehiring of the workers dismissed by the Mining Corporation of Bolivia [COMIBOL], and the withdrawal of troops from the mining regions." The interior minister also said that the support by priests and others for the hunger strike movement had political motives.

Yesterday President Banzer received new year visits. Among the visitors was Msgr Jorge Manrique, who told newsmen that he had talked with the president about the problem of the hunger strike at the archbishopic by women and children, relatives of mineworker leaders who were not included in the recent amnesty.

"Monsignor Manrique stated that the president had shown much willingness to arrive at an agreement with the strikers, but he asked them to give up their stubborn position regarding their demands."

BUSINESS SAID CONCERNED OVER POLITICAL FUTURE

PY041723Y La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 4 Jan 78 PY

[From the "Facetas" program]

[Text] Let us now go on to the "Facetas" analysis because, even though everything appears to be normal, uneasiness dominates all the country's sectors. There is some activity--not only in the Government Palace, where there is a lot of talk about the elections--but in military circles, too. We can cite as an example the latest statement by Gen Ramon Azero, commander of the 7th Army Division of Cochabamba, who said that a military candidacy has still not been carefully analyzed. He added that this would require meetings.

Apparently, the political opposition is arriving at (?new) conclusions. We are no longer dealing with a broad front which would include everyone, even though their political doctrines and opinions may differ. "Facetas" research allows us to report that not all opposition groups will be included in the broad front. Yes, there will be a front, but it will respect political positions.

There is another sector which has begun to show obvious concern over the process which the country will undergo next year. That sector is called private enterprise. It has been constantly meeting during the past few days to analyze what would be most advantageous for businessmen in a fervently political democratic country permanently exposed to the insurgence of social, economic and political problems. The private sector's concern is so great that it is even preparing a national meeting which will probably be held before the end of the month in Cochabamba.

What does "Facetas" know about the private enterprise sector's opinion? Let us explain.

First, there are many private businessmen who are not happy about the return to democracy--not from the legal point of view, but because of the consequences resulting from our type of government. To be more precise, in a democratic country it would not be easy to control, for example, salary demands and, consequently, problems of this nature would arise.

Second, private businessmen finally began to like the circumstances in which their companies view in spite of social stagnation. Peace and tranquillity are essential for development. This is a summary of the opinion held by private enterprise, and they will disclose this before the end of the month or during the first days of February.

We would like to tell you something else. Private businessmen wish to be totally independent of politics, although this does not mean they are not concerned about what is happening in the country. On the contrary, they are very worried about the country's situation. This is the reason for all the meetings, for the plans for Cochabamba in mid-January.

We would like to point out something else: Private enterprise likes the present system. They do not want too many changes. They are interested in the system, not the men. The businessmen's anxieties will surely disappear since, in the nation's developing political panorama which we can see, the elections will only rectify or give a (?semblance) of legality to the system begun by General Banzer in 1971.

VACAFLOR NOTES EFFORTS TOWARD BROAD FRONT

PY041850Y La Paz Radio Cruz Del Sur Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 4 Jan 78 PY

[From the "Facetas" program; commentary by Humberto Vacaflor]

[Excerpts] We are trying to find some guidelines which will help us interpret the political situation Bolivians are undergoing. We will discuss a book written last year by two American authors and published by the Harvard University Publishing Company. The book is entitled: "No Easy Choice; Political Participation in Developing Countries." In the second part of this book, written by Samuel P. Huntington and Joan M. Nelson, they talk about two vicious circles of political instability which exist on our continent. One is called the technocratic model, the other is called the populist model.

In this analysis we will explain the first efforts to form a [Bolivian] National Unity Party, which to date comprises only the National Unity Committee and the National Voluntary Committee [Comite Voluntariado Nacional]. This party can be defined only as the "system"--the government-proposed solution called the "system." The authorities have repeatedly told us that we must maintain the system.

The (?idea) of a dominant party, a party which could even authoritatively run the country, seems to have had good results in other countries, as we can see from the Mexican experience with the [?PRI] [Institutional Revolutionary Party] and from the Brazilian experience with ARENA. In these countries the two strong parties control, rather harshly, we might say, the existing democracy and have avoided falling into the two vicious circles which we have (?reviewed).

But let us go on to the practical aspects of the political analysis of the two American political researchers. As things are now going, the official candidate, General Pereda, has received shows of support and solidarity from various different sectors. These different sectors should form a group which would unite them. This could be what the American researchers call the dominant or majority party. That is to say that we are now undergoing the evolution of a movement to create a new party in the country which would be sponsored by the government. The present government is probably not interested in a momentary convergence which would only encourage the people to vote for Gen Juan Pereda Asbun on 9 July. What it probably does want is to construct, analyze and form a dominant party which would insure the survival and permanence of the present system.

MNR EXPECTED TO HOLD CONVENTION THIS MONTH

PY040130Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2221 GMT 3 Jan 78 PY

[Text] La Paz, 3 Jan--Bolivian political sources announced here today that the executive board of the National Revolutionary Movement (MNR) will call a national convention during January, possibly between the 15th and 20th.

The convention call, which was made by the former executive secretaries, probably will be obeyed by practically all the groups and factions of this party, with the exception of the group headed by Victor Paz Estenssoro--the national MNR chief. This party, which implemented substantial social reforms in Bolivia after the 1952 revolution, has entered a splintering process which is leading toward atomization, and is running the risk of disappearing. There will be a complete leadership crisis unless some group recognizes a leadership which has been legally elected before President Hugo Banzer's regime declared the political recess.

The main MNR sectors and groups are disposed toward seeking a common ground for unifying the party, because the disagreement is not due to ideology but to personalities, with the objective of establishing a front in this year's elections. Only the group headed by Paz Estenssoro opposes a national convention because it believes that not all of the party's militants are in the country.

PEREDA ASBUN, OTHERS PROMOTED

PY041846Y Sucre Radio La Plata in Spanish 1630 GMT 4 Jan 78 PY

[Excerpts] The government has issued a decree approving the following promotions: In the army: Brig Gen Hernan Terrazas Cespedes and Brig Gen Hugo Angel Salmon, to major general. In the air force: Brig Gen Juan Pereda Asbun and Brig Gen Luis Garcia Pereira, to major general. In the navy: Rear Adm Gutemberg Barroso to vice admiral.

FOREIGN POLICY GOALS FOR 1978 CONSIDERED

PY0413003Y Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 31 Dec 77 p 5 PY

[By Sergio Galvao]

[Excerpts] Brasilia--The time for seeking greater dynamism in Brazil's relations with all Latin American and African countries (except South Africa) is drawing to a close, and Brazilian foreign policy is turning to Asia, signing an agreement with China involving iron ore and sugar, and seeking rapproachement with the Philippines and Indonesia.

This rapproachement will probably be the big news of Brazilian foreign policy for 1978, when Brazil will try to firm up the positions gained in 1977. But the year promises to bring many problems for diplomacy, especially in the struggle against protectionism, which hinders the entrance of Brazilian-manufactured goods into the U.S. and European markets.

In an O GLOBO study which included the opinions of Foreign Minister Azeredo da Silveira, the heads of Itamaraty departments and foreign ambassadors, it became clear that 1978 will not be the year Brazil will solve all its problems with the United States. Undoubtedly, a great effort will be made to achieve rapproachement, culminating in President Jimmy Carter's visit toward the end of March or the beginning of April.

Amazon Pact

Independent of bilateral relations with the northern South American countries, the most significant fact was the support of seven countries--Bolivia, Ecuador, Venezuela, Colombia, Guyana, Peru and Surinam--for the Amazon Pact proposed by Brazil. Although this may be a long process, the first meeting of representatives from the eight countries was positive as far as Brazilian proposals are concerned.

There are still many doubts, however, especially among countries which make up the Andean Pact, regarding the treatment given to foreign capital. In addition, some countries insist on ignoring the fact that the Amazon Pact seeks physical integration (in terms of infrastructure for economic development of the region) and not economic integration, like the Andean Pact. The Brazilian Government does not recognize any incompatibility between the two integration systems. Foreign Minister Azeredo da Silveira explains it:

"I feel that there is no incompatibility. The Amazon Pact will be well coordinated. I do not think thay any difference in foreign capital treatment would become an obstacle. Within the vision of what the Amazon Pact would do for defense of the region and in coordinated action among all infrastructures in the area, I do not see any conflict with the Andean Pact."

Venezuela is the great defender of harmonizing the treatment of foreign capital, and President Carlos Andres Perez feels that if the Latin American countries make the two pacts compatible with regard to this principle, they will strengthen the American position in the struggle against the protectionism of the more developed countries. Brazil feels that this principle cannot be adopted by countries with different economies.

Azeredo da Silveira explains it: "Any country with a great [economic] surplus, such as Venezuela, can afford any exercise because it is not its future which is at stake, but that of other countries. Brazil does not have oil and has a deficit in its balance of payments. Therefore, the treatment of capital here must be different from a country with surplus. Even though there could be certain common rules, they should in general be different."

Africa and Asia

Except for South Africa because of "apartheid," Brazilian relations with other countries can be considered very good right now. Trade has increased tremendously by 550 percent. Taking Africa as a whole, trade reached $1.4 billion, and taking only black Africa it was $850 million. Brazil is selling more than it is purchasing.

According to the Brazilian foreign minister, this trade is half of Brazil's total trade in 1963.

Silveira stated: "We have achieved quite a lot in Africa because Brazil has placed itself in a position of absolute independence in its relations with Africa--that is to say, what seemed to be a negative factor disappeared under the influence of positions which Brazil was forced to adopt to show the character and intentions of its government. We have reached the point where we now have very good relations with the continent in general. Bilaterally, normal problems receive normal treatment."

Here are some details of that relationship with Africa: Brazil is exporting services to Nigeria, Algeria, Iraq, Mauritania, Libya, Syria, Angola and Mozambique (that country is supplied through the "Pao de Acucar" supermarkets network). Brazil is supplying fishing boats and railway equipment to Mozambique. It is installing "Nellore" cattle ranches in Nigeria, with the assistance of Brazilian technicians. In Mauritania, the Mendes Junior Construction Company is building a 400-km highway in the desert. In Algeria, Brazilians are building a city. In addition, Brazil is exporting "Urutu" and "Cascavel" armored vehicles to the Middle East, made by ENGESA.

FIGUEIREDO SAYS HE WILL SUCCEED GEISEL

PY041745Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1706 GMT 4 Jan 78 PY

[Text] Rio de Janeiro, 4 Jan--Gen Joao Baptista Figueiredo, head of the National Intelligence Service [SNI], has stated that he will succeed Gen Ernesto Geisel as president of Brazil, Radio Jornal do Brasil reported here today.

The report, which was not confirmed or denied by officials, adds that Figueiredo made this disclosure at the Equestrian Society of Brasilia before beginning his daily horse-riding exercise.

Figueiredo told a reporter of Radio Jornal do Brasil that the official announcement of his candidacy for the presidency of the republic will be made tomorrow, Thursday, by Deputy Francelino Pereira, president of the ruling party, the National Renewal Alliance (ARENA).

General Giesel's term will expire on 15 March, 1979, and the election of his successor will be made on 15 October this year by an electoral college made up of members of both houses of the Brazilian Congress and by delegates of the assemblies of the 21 Brazilian states.

MILITARY HOUSEHOLD CHIEF RESIGNS, REASON UNKNOWN

PY041954Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1941 GMT 4 Jan 78 PY

[Text] Brasilia, 4 Jan--The presidential spokesman reported today in Brasilia that Gen Gustavo Moraes Rego Reis today replaced Gen Hugo Abreu as head of President Ernesto Geisel's military household.

The spokesman did not explain whether Gen Abreu was dismissed by President Geisel or whether he resigned. He only said that the general was "relieved" from his functions.

Details on Abreu's Dismissal

PY050030Y Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 4 Jan 78 PY

[Text] President Ernesto Geisel has signed a decree dismissing Gen Hugo de Andrade Abreu at his request from his functions as chief of the presidential military household. President Geisel then nominated Gen Gustavo Moraes Rego Reis to replace General Abreu. General Moraes Rego Reis was commander of the 11th Infantry Brigade headquartered in Campinas, Sao Paulo.

In a letter dated 3 January and delivered this morning to President Geisel, General Abreu asked for his dismissal from his post, which was accepted by the president after a meeting with the outgoing minister in his office at Planalto Palace.

The letter presented by General Abreu to President Geisel reads as follows. Following our talks this afternoon at Alvorada Palace, I have come to ask for my dismissal from my post as head of the presidential military household.

In thanking your excellency for your expressions of consideration and friendship which have always characterized our relations, I also want to take the opportunity to wish you full success during the remaining period of your term in office.

Respectfully, General Hugo Abreu.

During the meeting held this afternoon with General Abreu, President Geisel presented him with the letter accepting his request to be dismissed from his functions and thanking him for his cooperation, although he regretted the withdrawal.

The letter states: "I have received your letter dated 3 January confirming your decision to request dismissal from the post as minister head of the presidential military household. I have no other alternative than to accept your request, regretting the withdrawal of a dear friend and comrade from a post of confidence which he so greatly honored.

I sincerely thank you for all your services granted to the nation and particularly to myself, with all the dedication, capability, loyalty and public [word indistinct] which have always characterized you.

Wishing you more happiness in your career, I also want to commend your dear wife, who has greatly honored both my wife and myself with her friendship at all times.

Cordially, Ernesto Geisel.

Through another decree, President Geisel also dismissed Lt Col Kurt Pessek from his post as adjutant of the military household.

CZECHOSLOVAK POWERPLANT MAY REPLACE MONDAY DAM

PY311715Y Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 30 Dec 77 p 4 PY

[Excerpts] Within a few days Brazilian Power Companies Inc., [ELECTROBRAS] will conclude a study on the installation of a thermoelectric powerplant in Rio Grande do Sul or Santa Catarina, using coal as fuel. If confirmed, this plant would definitely clear away all doubts about delays in the construction of Itaipu Dam.

This report was released yesterday by a high government source in Brasilia, while in Asuncion, Paraguayan technicians were presenting evidence refuting recent remarks by Brazilian officials that there is no relation between the construction of the Monday Dam and possible delay in the construction of Itaipu. The evidence is a section of the report sent by Itaipu Binacional to the Paraguayan and Brazilian Governments. It says: "Construction of the Monday Dam and the filling of its reservoir within the established schedule are feasible if construction begins in early 1978. The crucial schedule dates are the closing of Itaipu's diversion channel in September, 1982, the filling of the Monday reservoir beginning in September, 1979, and the diversion of the Monday River during the 1978 dry season to construct a 185-meter rockfill dam and earthfill dike [ombreira] before September, 1979."

According to government sources, the thermoelectric powerplant would be bought from Czechoslovakia for $300 million, three times the cost of building the dam in Paraguay. However, this alternative is looked on as "highly satisfactory," since following the diversion period caused by filling Itaipu, the country would have another powerplant. Furthermore, Czechoslovakia would compensate Brazil for buying the plant by renewing for 10 years the contract to import 1.5 million tons of granulated iron ore yearly, which concludes in 1978.

BRIEFS

FRG BUYS BRAZILINVEST SHARE--BRAZILINVEST President Mario Garnero has revealed that the German Economic Cooperation Society, owned by the FRG Government has just bought the 66th share-quota of BRAZILINVEST capital. He also revealed that recently two U.S. companies--E. F. Hutton and Company, Inc., and William E. Simon Ltd (owned by the former U.S. treasury secretary)--have become BRAZILINVEST shareholders, adding that there are only 7 shares left for sale to complete the 80 shares which are to make up the company's total capital. [Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 3 Jan 78 PY]

NEW REGION COMMANDER--President Ernesto Geisel yesterday signed a decree appointing Gen Antonio Ferreira Marques as new commander of the First Military Region, located in Rio de Janeiro. He is to take over his new post in mid-February. [Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 3 Jan 78 p 5 PY]

REPORTAGE ON 4 JAN CONSULTATION VOTE

Tally as of 0350 GMT 5 Jan

PY050420Y [Editorial Report] Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish at 0350 GMT on 5 January reports that with 98 percent of the voting boxes counted nationwide the results are as follows: Yes, 4,012,023, 75 percent; No, 1,092,227 20.4 percent; Null and blank, 244,023, 4.6 percent.

The results in the Santiago metropolitan area are: Yes, 1,330,396; No, 513,986; Null and blank, 101,142.

Juan Fernandez Islands' Vote

PY041834Y Santiago Chile Radio Mineria Network in Spanish 1840 GMT 4 Jan 78 PY

[Report from Interior Ministry]

[Text] This is the first balloting result in the country. It is from the Juan Fernandez islands. Result: 159 yes, 17 no, and 1 blank vote. We repeat: the first result in the country, officially released here at the Diego Portales Building: From the Juan Fernandez islands: 159 yes, 17 no and 1 blank vote.

Robinson Crusoe Island Tally

PY041905 Paris AFP in Spanish 1851 GMT 4 Jan 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, 4 Jan--A total of 243 votes favorable to the government and 23 against is part of the first fragmentary returns in the national consultation convoked by President Pinochet, it was officially announced here. The reported vote count, released by the Chilean Interior Ministry, is from Robinson Crusoe Island in the South Pacific.

Reports on Voting Incidents

[Editorial report PY] Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish at 1655 GMT 4 January reports that in Concepcion "Italian citizen (Piela de Monte) was arrested yesterday in the municipality of (Juan Iragüe), Arauco Province, where he was distributing subversive pamphlets. This information was released at noon today by Col (Dante Igurise San Martiente), deputy commander of the joint staff of the 30 Army Division. (De Monte) was placed at the disposal of the military court. He had been working as professor at the professional training center of (Iragüe). His passport had been issued in Milan and he was in Chile under contract."

The Domestic Service reports at 1600 GMT that former president Jorge Alessandri has voted in downtown Santiago.

Interior Minister on 'Voting Abstention'

PY041415Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0110 GMT 4 Jan 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 3 Jan--Interior Minister Raul Benavides made clear today that no punishment has been established for those who fail to participate in tomorrow's consultation, adding that attendance at the polls is only a moral obligation.

Asked whether the voting is compulsory, General Benavides stated that "every true Chilean has the obligation and responsibility of voting. Now, more than ever, he must vote in this consultation."

He made clear, however, that the degree convoking the consultation does not establish punishments for those who abstain, and thus abstentions are not punishable.

PDC President's Warning

PY041226Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0250 GMT 4 Jan 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 3 Jan--Andres Zaldivar, president of the recessed Christian Democratic Party (PDC), stated today that the conditions under which the citizens consultation will be held tomorrow are just right for the consummation of a fraud.

In a statement to the press, the PDC leader stressed the arbitrary and illegitimate nature of the act, and he explained that those appointed to supervise the voting at the designated places are unconditionally for the government and that many of them belong to a chosen minority group.

He added that Gen Augusto Pinochet and his advisory team have decided to go ahead with the consultation, despite the opinion to the contrary voiced by the comptroller general, bishops and other personalities and organizations.

MIR Broadcast Against Consultation

PY041422Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0329 GMT 4 Jan 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 3 Jan--It was reported here that the underground Chilean Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR) broke into the broadcast of a local radio station to broadcast political slogans against the military government.

According to Fernando Betteley, director of an important Chilean Catholic radio station, the interruption took place at that station at 2130 local time and lasted 1 minute.

Through a technical subterfuge, the MIR was able to broadcast a short slogan regarding the referendum to be held tomorrow morning, until station technicians stopped the transmission.

Text of MIR Proclamation

PY041748Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1626 GMT 4 Jan 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 4 Jan--In a proclamation broadcast over a local radio station after the outlawed movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR) intruded into the station's regular programming, the MIR declares the consultation a trick of the military government. The text of the proclamation was released later by government officials.

An official communique reports that a woman, who was on the air less than a minute, read the following proclamation:

No to dismissals; no to the dominant classes; no to the unlimited nefarious power of the military forces; no to exiles; no to the censorship of the communications media; move forward, MIR! In view of the incredible falseness of Pinochet's fascist government, the MIR deems it its patriotic duty to denounce this latest trick as another move taken by the military government to obtain complete freedom of action to carry out its process of oppression and shame to the detriment of all Chileans. The MIR hereby orders its members, friends and supporters....

At this point, the clandestine broadcast was cut off.

Admiral Merino's Comments

PY041424Y Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1400 GMT 4 Jan 78 PY

[Relay from School No. 14, located in the Las Condes district of Santiago]

[Excerpt] Admiral Merino arrived at this school a few minutes ago to comply with his obligation as a citizen. When he entered the school, "Onda Noticiosa" [newscast] asked him his impression of the voting. [recorded passage indistinct] Admiral Merino pointed out that he expected the voting to be between 68 and 70 percent favorable to the government, to Chile.

Added Remarks by Merino

PY041637Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1452 GMT 4 Jan 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, 4 Jan--Adm Jose Toribio Merino, a member of the military junta, stated today that if the outcome of the consultation is negative, the government will change some "political ideas to improve its image." He also noted that there may be "changes of persons and terms, but I cannot confirm anything now because these things will be considered after the voting."

He acknowledged that he had at first disagreed with President Pinochet over the convocation of the consultation, "because a general staff or a group of men working together can have different ideas, but once a decision was made, we all worked as best as we could toward achieving the main idea."

He added later that "the Chilean Government is a single person with four heads: the government is made up of four members."

He also rejected rumors that a personality cult was being built up around General Augusto Pinochet.

Merino on Vote Results

PY050046Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0022 GMT 5 Jan 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 4 Jan--Admiral Jose Toribio Merino, commander in chief of the Chilean Navy, stated here today that "Chile is pleased with the policy which the government of the country is carrying out." Merino, member of the military government, made this remark after stressing that so far the results of the national consultation have been favorable for the government.

General Leigh's Remarks

PY041436Y Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1415 GMT 4 Jan 78 PY

[Text] The Chilean Air Force cannot stay out of this important event, in which the high interests of the nation are at stake, said Gen Gustavo Leigh, commander in chief of the air force and member of the government junta, with regard to the national consultation called by the president.

General Leigh made this remark when voting this morning at School No. 7 in Providencia. General Leigh was applauded and cheered by the voters on his arrival at the school.

Leigh on Vote

PY042315Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2124 GMT 4 Jan 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 4 Jan--Gen Gustavo Leigh, Chilean Air Force commander, stated here today that he believes that the great majority of Chileans support the present military regime. He noted: "This as a government which has the support of the Chilean citizens, otherwise no one would be able to govern in Chile today."

General Leigh, who is a member of the military junta, noted that "the result of the consultation will be positive. I do not have any doubts about it."

Leigh added that "there are other factors which I believe will shock us but which will help us to adjust domestic policies."

Leigh noted that "as for international affairs, I do not see any great advantage (to the national consultation of today) because they are always going to believe that we are fixing the votes, they are always going to believe we are violating human rights. It can even lead us to other kinds of problems."

Leigh on Vote Result

PY050042Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0012 GMT 5 Jan 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 4 Jan--Gen Gustavo Leigh, commander in chief of the Chilean Air Force, stated here today that he believes that the Cabinet of the Chilean military government may resign in the coming hours as a gesture of support for President Augusto Pinochet. "Whenever there is an election the cabinet places itself at the disposal of the president, who may then confirm each minister in his post or replace him," Leigh stated.

The member of the government junta stated that the favorable result of the national consultation "should be taken advantage of at the domestic level."

However, after the first results of the consultation were reported to him, President Pinochet stated "We no longer need to think about any elections."

Report on Voting Tranquillity

PY040500Y Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1440 GMT 4 Jan 78 PY

[Text] Onda Noticiosa has just interviewed Gen Enrique Morel, metropolitan and provincial emergency zone headquarters chief, at the National Institute.

[Morel--begin recording] As you can see, everything is absolutely normal. There are no problems in the metropolitan area, which is now under my jurisdiction. There are no problems in the provincial areas under my jurisdiction either. The Fourth, Fifth, with the exception of Valparaiso, and Sixth regions are also absolutely normal according to information I just received over the phone. There are no problems at all. The only thing that is scaring us a bit is that so many people have come out. [end recording]

Frei's Remarks on Polling

PY042031Y Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 2013 GMT 4 Jan 78 PY

[Text] Former President Eduardo Frei stated today, regarding the national consultation, that he reaffirmed his statement made a few days ago rejecting the consultation.

Asked whether he had gone to the ballot to express his opinion, he only said: What I said before answers your question. In conclusion he stated that in March 1978 he will again leave for Europe, specifically for Geneva, to attend a meeting of the (?Brandt) committee. He is a member of this committee along with several personalities from other countries.

Uruguayan Report on Voting

PY041554Y Montevideo Cadena de Oro del Interior in Spanish 1500 GMT 4 Jan 78 PY

[Excerpt] As elsewhere on the continent, here in Montevideo we are closely following the voting in the 24,000 voting stations established in Chile to deal with the popular consultation convoked by President Augusto Pinochet. In an atmosphere of tranquillity, many people are responding to the convocation made by President Pinochet.

Gen Enrique Morel, head of the Santiago military garrison, said that the voting was being held in completely normal conditions. He noted that the only untoward event had been the planting of a weak explosive device in a downtown building early this morning.

Report From Interior Ministry

PY041633Y Santiago Chile Radio Mineria Network in Spanish 1530 GMT 4 Jan 78 PY

[Report from Interior Ministry]

[Text] We might say that there are now a few moments of relaxation here at the Interior Ministry now that the four members of the government junta have cast their ballots at various balloting stations, as Radio Mineria has already reported through its several mobile units located throughout the metropolitan area. The work of those units has undoubtedly enabled the whole country to get a picture of how the referendum is proceeding.

Those who have had direct contact with the balloting have reported that there has been absolute tranquillity and seriousness among the voters. All has been found to be calm.

We accompanied the president when he cast his ballot at (Jose Sarmiento) school, located at 3250 Catedral Street. The president said that he was convinced that he would be strongly backed by the citizenry. He stated he was pleased with how the balloting was taking place. He repeated: "Now the country will give a solid response to the United Nations through the referendum." The public applauded the president, both when he arrived and when he returned to the Diego Portales Building. Right now the president is in his office, working with some advisers on matters of government.

We believe that the other government junta members had a similar impression of the behavior of the public, when they cast their ballots. General Leigh did so at School No. 7 and Admiral Merino at School No. 14. General Mendoza voted at the International Institute. Justice Minister Monica Madariaga stressed the courtesy of the voters.

Some foreign newsmen said that they did not wish to make any statements, for reasons of ethics, they said, but they did say that they were amazed at the number of voters. The Argentines who have come here have said that they received a new and different image of Chile and that they found that they can in fact work without any difficulty. They will undoubtedly continue reporting from here and send reports to their country and to international press agencies.

Interior Ministry Statement

PY041735Y Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 4 Jan 78 PY

[Statement by Cdr Enrique Montero, under secretary of interior--recording]

[Excerpt] Reports from the country's (?seven) regions indicate that voting is being carried out normally, without any incident to mar the occasion. The only noteworthy fact is the enormous number of people registering, especially in the metropolitan area. This has forced regional officers and their authorities to take measures to assist the officials at the voting stations so that all can vote.

LATIN Report on Balloting

PY050239Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2230 GMT 4 Jan 78 PY

[By Carlos Banales]

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 4 Jan--The officially banned Christian Democratic Party [PDC] today carried out a scrutiny of the voting during the national consultation and its activity was clearly perceptible at many metropolitan boxes where the voting procedure was fully open to the public. In some cases the officials in charge of the boxes refused to allow the people to watch over the counting of the votes and only grudgingly allowed the journalists to do so. However, at many other boxes the officials did not object to the presence of groups of spectators and even invited them to come closer while they explained the process of vote-counting.

Considerable confusion seemed to prevail among the polling officials with regard to the degree of publicity they were supposed to give the vote-counting. The three officials of a box for women engaged in a veritable debate with certain citizens who were watching them when the time came to annul certain votes.

In a building where dozens of boxes for women were operating, several spectators openly stated that they were members of the Christian Democratic Party and carefully noted down the results, identifying the table. This action seemed to indicate that the banned PDC had some sort of sampling system in operation. The chairman of one of the boxes engaged in a discussion with a Chilean journalist when he demanded that the journalist give her name and surname in order to use her as a guarantor of the fairness of the count. "I am not the one who has to attest to this procedure, but as a mere journalist I will not give you my name to use for such a purpose because it is not up to the journalists to certify the vote-count," she said. The discussion rose in tone until a calm army major intervened and explained to the chairman of the box that in fact there was no need to include in the act the names of people other than those of the comptrollers of the boxes.

The annulment of certain votes caused some protests, and army officers intervened to tell the spectators that they were supposed to look but make no comment.

The majority of the box comptrollers obviously were trying to do their best and many times this caused lengthy discussions when confronted with questionable ballots. The voters were supposed to draw a vertical line crossing the horizontal line placed next to the words yes or no, according to the way they felt. However, certain enthusiasts wrote the word next to the already printed yes or no; in some cases such ballots were annulled and in others they were not. Even though certain box comptrollers did not hide their personal inclination toward the yes, they did not make decisions unfavorable to the opposition.

When the time came to close the voting at a place assigned to women, an unknown gentleman approached each of the boxes to tell the comptrollers to give no information to the journalists. However, as soon as the vote count at this place began, the journalists who wanted to watch it were able to do so at any of the boxes.

AFP on Pinochet's Elation

OW050040Y Hong Kong AFP in English 0036 GMT 5 Jan 78 OW

[Text] Santiago, Jan 4 (AFP)--The Chilean Interior Ministry tonight authorized mass "victory marches" after barely 10 percent of the votes in today's national referendum had been counted. A first announcement, based on over half a million of close to 6,000,000 voters, showed a trend of better than 4-1 in favor of General Augusto Pinochet's military junta rule. A second official report, based on 1,750,000 votes, showed a shade over 81 percent of the voters casting "yes" ballots.

Gen Pinochet called the referendum after a United Nations condemnation of human rights violations in Chile. The voting question was phrased so that a "yes" vote upheld the "legitimacy" of the Pinochet regime.

Gen Pinochet, addressing a press conference while the early returns were coming in, said the results showed that no further elections need be held in Chile, at least for some time. "The priorities for now," he said, "are order, unity and hard work shared between the armed forces and the civilian population." The junta leader said that as a result of the vote the Foreign Ministry would have to be "restructured" and "Chile's international policy will be revised to make it more aggressive." Gen Pinochet said he and his junta had been "strengthened" by the vote, but that the state of siege and curfew would remain in force, as has been the case since his military putsch which overthrew the late Marxist President Salvador Allende in September 1973.

PDC Terms Consultation 'a Fraud'

PY050327Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0317 GMT 5 Jan 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 4 Jan--The proscribed Chilean Christian Democratic Party tonight termed as "a fraud" the national consultation called by President Augusto Pinochet through which the president received support for his administration.

Holiday Decree; Curfew

PY302345Y Santiago Chile Radio Mineria Network in Spanish 0930 GMT 30 Dec 77 PY

[Summary] The Metropolitan Area and San Antonio Province Emergency Zone Office has issued Decree No. 114, which orders that all public and private activities stop from 0000 4 January 1978 to 1930 4 January 1978. Only those services and activities needed to carry out the national consultation that day are exempt. [Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 2 January 1978 reported that the Metropolitan and Provincial Emergency State Headquarters has ordered a curfew from 0000 to 0400 on 4 January for all residents over 18 years of age.

[Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 4 Jan 78 PY reports: "In view of our listeners' repeated telephone calls, we would like to report that the curfew on Thursday will be in effect from 0200 to 0530."]

Pinochet's Victory Rally Speech

FY050434Y Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 0056 GMT 5 Jan 78 FY

[Speech to the nation by Chilean President Augusto Pinochet at rally held in front of Diego Portales building on occasion of the national consultation on 4 January--live]

[Text] My dear friends...[applause and shouts] how hard it is to say something when one has a lump in the throat. Frankly, I find no way to express my thanks for the support you have given me. [applause and shouts]

We have given an answer...[applause and shouts] my friends. Today we have said yes to Chile and we have given our support to its government, empowering it to strongly repudiate the United Nations. [applause and shouts]

The only...the only way to express this feeling of repudiation was to ask the entire nation to vote at a national consultation, [words indistinct] a consultation, and I say this once more, which is not a plebiscite because it fails to fulfill the requirements of a plebiscite, however, there are [words indistinct] [applause and shouts]. In spite of this...[applause and shouts] in spite of this...[applause and shouts] and in spite of clarifying the doubts in this regard, in spite of all that has been done so far, there are some who still talk of a plebiscite because they wish to minimize this consultation. But the proof is here, gentlemen. You are...[applause and shouts] you are the people of Chile. [applause and shouts]

There are some...[applause and shouts] there are some who have wanted to [words indistinct] who have wanted to obtain certain advantages. To them,I say--to those that dared to criticize this event before becoming aware of our victory--to them I say from the depth of my heart: Messrs politicians, you are through. There is no room for you in Chile. [applause and shouts]

And they have...and they have gone to the extent, in their negative attitude, of circulating the most preposterous rumors. They have rejected all the activities--and this I say proudly and I will say it again--carried out by the government.

But this victory of the Chilean people, which results from the answer to the consultation which the government presented to them, has many aspects which must be taken into account. In the first place, there will be no more elections, voting or consultations for the next 10 years. [applause, shouts] [passage indistinct] Today we can tell them that this has come to an end for them. Also because...also because they could threaten us [words indistinct] representatives of a majority [applause, shouts] and they...and they had to obtain [applause, shouts] but what was much more serious is that they intended to obtain power by bringing in force from abroad. [applause, shouts]

Therefore, gentlemen, the negative factor is there, it is there. It is there because they forgot that we Chileans do not need to be given lessons in democracy or in the way in which we govern ourselves. [applause] This is why...this is why, gentlemen, that this is the core of the situation. And thus, the words of that organization, the United Nations, based on a party with a majority [words indistinct] [applause]

What should we do now, is the question you are asking. What are we going to do, my General? [word indistinct] [applause, cheers]

First, we are going to send a letter tomorrow to the UN secretary general [applause, cheers] in which, using nice words, since there are educated people, we are going to tell him that we no longer want them to tell us that commissions will be sent to investigate us. [words indistinct]

And we are going to recommend that the president of the [Human Rights] Commission, Mr. Allana, go to Pakistan [applause, cheers],; Mr. Allana, as a Pakistani, has a mission, a great activity in his country, where there are more than 50,000 political prisoners. Let him go there [applause, cheers]; [chants Pinochet, Pinochet...]

Soon, very soon we are going to reorganize the Foreign Ministry, to begin with. We are going to send commissions to the South and Central American countries and the United States to explain this. [applause]

They should at least learn what happened in Chile and not remain unaware of it, because it seems that they only get (?second-hand) information. [applause and shouts]

And now, in front of all these people I ask these oh, so solidary organizations to tell the truth abroad, and believe us [words indistinct] [applause and shouts] the same as....the same as they had the courage to deceive the world, to have the guts [que tengan hombria] to tell the truth to that same world. [applause and shouts]

And now my friends, my fellow citizens, let us see [words indistinct] but there are several Chileans, possibly deceived, that [words indistinct] [applause and shouts] whose....whose ideas we are willing to respect, but not accept. [applause and shouts]

I also wish to ask you today to carry out this new [word indistinct] which you have given Chile, because the government needs the support of the citizens [word indistinct] [applause and shouts]

I have no wish to tire oyou any further. The time has come to tell you that today we are protecting our flag, that today we are thinking of our Chile, that today we proclaim that we want work and tranquillity. We must give thought to [word indistinct]. Finally, we must work without pause, and as to the terrorists and the rightists [as heard]: Out of the county! [applause and shouts]

[Words indistinct] friends, tomorrow is a working day. Tomorrow we must happily help make this nation, this Chile of ours, greater. Good luck.

Pinochet's Remarks to Reporters

PA050210Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 01400 GMT 5 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 4 Jan (LATIN)--President Augusto Pinochet announced tonight that, as a result of the solid backing by the people in the national consultation, he will revise Chile's foreign policy, maintain the decision not to hold elections until 1986 and abstain from authorizing a visit to the country by a United Nations investigating commission. The president said that the ad hoc UN Human Rights Commission headed by the Pakistani citizen Ali Allana will not be allowed to visit Chile until it agrees to submit to certain rules which he labeled as impartial.

Speaking before a group of newsmen, the president added that the backing was for him and for the government junta composed of the commanders in chief of the navy, air force and carabineros.

He also made it clear that the Chilean Government's executive power structure will remain the same as it has been since the armed forces assumed power just over 4 years ago. "It is possible that small changes might be made to clarify some concepts, but it will continue as is. Why should it change," he asked?

The conversation with Government House reporters took place in the president's office on the 22d floor of the seat of the government.

General Pinochet attached little importance to the fact that Gen Gustavo Leigh, the commander of the air force and member of the government junta, had publicly stated his opposition to the holding of the consultation. "It is a very human problem," he pointed out, and added: "On the other hand, when criticism is public, it should be expressed toward the inside [hacia el interior]. When it is leveled toward the outside [hacia el exterior], it has a political appearance."

He said that the result of the consultation is unimportant from a domestic viewpoint. "However, some adjustments must be made in this area," he pointed out. He abstained from further comments on the topic. He added that commissions will be sent abroad "to explain" throughout Latin America, and particularly in the Southern Cone, what is really happening in Chile. "Regarding this, I will request the cooperation and intervention of the OAS. Why is Africa's regional organization permitted to act in favor of Mr Idi Amin? While in the meantime the OAS is not allowed to act in our country, which is a civilized one. But we will request that," he indicated. He then said that Chile's future foreign policy will be "more aggressive and pragmatic." This, he explained, would imply a reorganization of the Foreign Ministry. Pinochet then stressed that he has never intended to use the citizens' support for personal or political purposes. "I will use it, but to project it outwardly," he remarked.

According to Pinochet, after today "all Chileans must march more united than ever: Nobody can isolate himself; there should be general participation." And he added: "Now, we will all work together. Here there are no victors or vanquished. Differences of opinions must be left behind."

Pinochet said that the citizens had shaken the country to its very foundations. "The best possibilities of recent times for joint work between the citizens and the armed forces have now arisen. However, for the time being I do not want to say anything else."

[Paris AFP in Spanish 2345 GMT 4 January 1978, in reporting this speech, notes that "Pinochet also said that 'Today, the president and the government junta have emerged strengthened and that with this turning of our backs the United Nations will have to think twice before interfering in Chile's internal affairs.'" AFP ended its report as follows: "He concluded by indicating that the state of siege and the curfew, in force in the country since September 1973, will continue in force.]

Pinochet Radio Address to Nation

PY0506l4Y Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 0400 GMT 5 Jan 78 PY

[Radio address to the nation by Chilean President Pinochet--presumably live]

[Text] Fellow countrymen, at this time of victory for the cause of Chile, I want to express the most heartfelt recognition to the people of the fatherland.

The great turnout of citizens at the ballot boxes is the best testimony that today's national consultation reflected the most deeply rooted feelings of the Chilean people. Those who had tried to discredit or look down upon it today met the strongest and most categorical answer of the Chilean people, who understood that it was opportune and necessary for all people to personally assume the defense of the Chilean dignity and sovereignty.

The United Nations must take appropriate note that our country rejects its injustice in judging the Chilean situation, and categorically rejects its intention to interfere in the decision on our future destiny. The decisions made by this international organization with the clear intention of undermining our government have backfired and have served to greatly strengthen the firmness of our regime.

In supporting the president in his defense of the Chilean dignity and reaffirming the legitimacy of the current government to sovereignly lead the creation of a new institutionality, the Chilean people have made an historically important answer to the call of the fatherland to defend and promote the liberation of 11 September 1973.

I accept the overwhelming support which my fellow countrymen expressed today in the understanding that it is not for me but for the duty which I have as president of the nation to meet the international aggression and to lead our nation toward the final victory.

The government will adopt the necessary measures to adjust our foreign policy in this new stage. But I feel that the most important thing which resulted from the voting today is that it has awakened unity among all Chileans and the awareness of the responsibility which concerns the entire citizenry, not just the armed and security forces, in the daily construction of our future.

Today's victory thus opens up a wide and effective path for increasing civilian participation in our process within the ideal of civilian-military integration, which together with the indestructible unity of our armed forces and forces of order are the pillars on which our current and future success are based.

Also, the order and seriousness of today's voting and the complete openness of the scrutiny have ratified the traditional civic maturity of our people and the immaculate prestige of our government, something which no impartial and objective observer can ignore.

The attempts of small partisan and former political groups to seek to cloud or confuse the implementation and significance of this consultation have been smashed and will continue to be smashed against these factors. The resounding defeat they have suffered is the best demonstration that the country will not accept a return to political chicanery and demagogy which these sectors brought to the fore during the past few days and which reveals that the nasty experience of the years before 1973 has taught them nothing.

With more force than ever, the government reaffirms today its belief that only through the gradual construction of the new democratic institutionality will it be possible to correct the vices of the past and to interpret the most cherished desires of the Chileans.

A greater participation, yes; a return to political chicanery and demagogy, no. Thus, in synthesis, the conclusive expression of the population emerges today.

Concluding, I wish to thank--from deep in my heart--every woman, youngster and workingman who knew how to respond to the patriotic demand for their support, and for having given their support to the government in these difficult times.

With renewed confidence, due to the exemplary response of our people, I express my deepest gratitude to God Almighty, and I ask Him to help me always to be faithful to my duties and to give my all for the nation which, as during the greatest of its historical epics, may again arise as an example of spiritual dignity and moral strength before the whole world.

Long live Chile! Good night.

Pinochet Pre-Vote Optimism

PY0421357 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2124 GMT 4 Jan 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 4 Jan--At a time when the voting seems to be favoring the military government, President Augusto Pinochet asserted that he is optimistic regarding the results of today's national consultation. "I said yesterday that a general who enters combat without optimism does not have a chance, and I am optimistic," the chief of state told reporters.

EARTHQUAKE FELT IN COPIAPO

PA0416527 Paris AFP in Spanish 1510 GMT 4 Jan 78 PY

[Text] Copiapo, Chile, 4 Jan--A medium-intensity tremor was recorded here today, causing alarm at the voting stations where the national consultation called by President Augusto Pinochet is being carried out.

According to the local seismological institute, the tremor registered 3-4 degrees on the international scale of 1 to 12.

The tremor lasted 15 seconds and caused no casualties or damage in this city, located 800 kilometers morth of Santiago.

FOUR GUERRILLAS RELEASED; POLICE NOT PLEASED

PA301623Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 0204 GMT 30 Dec 77 PA

[Text] Bogota, 29 Dec--Four of the seven members of the subversive Popular Self-Defense Forces (FAP) who had maintained a guerrilla school were released this evening. The released young men are: Luis Gonzaga Alvarez, Tito Silvio Nino Hernandez, Edgar Eli Gonzalez Parra and Fernando Botero Slagado.

The mastermind of the guerrilla group, Ernesto Charry Montealegre, as well as Pedro Parra Rodriguez and Juan Gonzalez Puentes--a Brazilian citizen who is an international guerrilla instructor--remain in prison.

The seven men who made up the staff of the seditious group were arrested on Monday when they were meeting secretly in the Social Integration Cooperative School north of Bogota. According to the Secret Police (F-2) which arrested them, the seven men operated a school for guerrillas in the school building and were found in possession of a Radio Cadena Nacional Network building plan. The subversive group was planning to issue a revolutionary appeal through the radio station. The news about the release of the four men was not well received by secret police authorities.

400 ARRESTS MADE AFTER 2 POLICEMEN KILLED

PA311215Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 30 Dec 77 PA

[Text] Medellin--About 400 persons have been detained in Apartado Municipality in the wake of the killing of two police officers by alleged guerrillas on Tuesday evening. The dry law is still in effect in the area while members of the various security forces carry out raids in an attempt to arrest the killers of the two police officers.

The two policemen were shot to death by the guerrillas while they were on duty in the black zone in Uraba. It seems that the guerrillas belong to the Fifth Front of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia. It has been disclosed that several undocumented persons and well-known criminals are among the arrested persons.

FARC GUERRILLAS KILL ARMY INFORMER

PA031234Y Bogota Radio Santa Fe in Spanish 2330 GMT 2 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Bolivar, Santander--A peasant has been shot to death by a guerrilla cell of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia. The victim was identified by the authorities as Adriano Quiroga, who was shot 15 times. A note left behind by the insurgents notes that the peasant was an army informer and so betrayed the guerrillas. Secret service and army counterintelligence agents are investigating the case.

BRIEFS

GENERAL DIES IN TRAFFIC ACCIDENT--Bucaramanga, Colombia, 23 Dec--Gen Jose Maria Rivas, commander of the 5th Brigade, has died in a traffic accident, according to information released today by military sources. The 5th Brigade is in charge of a large mountain area where elements of the pro-Castro Army of National Liberation (ELN) are operating. [Paris AFP in Spanish 1815 GMT 23 Dec 77 PA]

PENAL CODE REFORMED TO PUNISH HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

PA040014Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 0135 GMT 3 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Quito, 2 Jan (EFE)--The Ecuadorean Military Government has decided to introduce several reforms into the penal code in order to punish racial discrimination or any other action that violates human rights. The decree ordering the reforms establishes prison sentences for any person who in any way spreads ideas based on racist concepts or endorses, incites or practices racial discrimination. It also establishes prison sentences of various lengths for public officials and authorities who order to execute arbitrary actions that violate either human rights or the freedoms and rights guaranteed by the national constitution.

ECUADOREAN LEFT ASKS MEMBERS TO VOTE FOR NEW CONSTITUTION

PA032230Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1814 GMT 2 Jan 78 PA

[By Jacques Kaufmann]

[Text] Quito, 2 Jan (AFP)--The Ecuadorean left has called on its followers to vote favorably in the constitutional referendum on 15 January, but it has not reached agreement on a common candidate for the 16 July presidential election.

The Communist Party of Ecuador [PCE], the Revolutionary Socialist Party of Ecuador [PSRE], the Confederation of Ecuadorean Workers [CTE] (under PCE control), the Ecuadorean Confederation of Free Union Organizations [CEOSL] and the Ecuadorean Confederation of Classist Organizations [CEDOC]--which includes Communists, Socialists and "independents" under the influence of Christian Democrats--have invited their members to participate in the plan to return to institutional order, as drafted by the military triumvirate. In the last few weeks these organizations have come out in favor of the new constitution, one of two which will be submitted to a vote in the referendum.

The labor centrals, however, appear to be divided on the nomination of a common leftist candidate for the presidential election, which is being held 6 months later. The three labor centrals believe that the "new constitution" is more progressive because it grants illiterates the right to vote. Each central has listed its advantages: The new constitution condemns colonialism and neocolonialism, establishes free education at all levels and provides for popular initiative in the drafting of laws, among other things.

Regarding the presidential election, the Leftist Broad Front [FADI], made up of the PCE, the PSRE and other Marxist organizations, intends to launch a single candidate supported by the CTE. However, according to the CEDOC, this step is premature: "We are still in a state of organization and are too weak to launch a candidate," a CEDOC spokesman told AFP.

For his part, the president of the CEOSL, Jose Chavez, said that "no member of FADI has any chance of defeating populist Asaad Bucaram." Bucaram, the mayor of Guayaquil, announced his presidential candidacy months ago.

The CTE, the CEDOC and theCEOSL, with their 627,000 supporters, wield considerable influence in the politics of the country, which has 1.6 million voters. Only half of the unionized workers are participating in the referendum--because the other half are minors or illiterates--but the illiterates, which represent almost half of the CTE membership, will vote in the presidential election if the new constitution is adopted, as everything now seems to indicate.

PARTIES CENSURE PRESIDENT'S POLITICAL POSITION

PA050216Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 2325 GMT 3 Jan 78 PA

[By Juan Carlos Munoz]

[Text] Lima, 3 Jan (EFE)--The Peruvian political waters were stirred up so violently today that they threatened to wash away the country's proposed democratic opening. The danger also threatened the turnover of power to civilians, promised for 1980 by the armed forces, which have been operating a "de facto" government since the 3 October, 1968, military coup.

The incident has become even more dramatic and unusual because it was President Gen Francisco Morales Bermudez himself who was the target of direct and open criticism by the political parties. Paradoxically, several days ago the people unanimously and the majority of the political leaders selected Morales Bermudez as "Peru's Man of the Year" for his civic courage in guiding the country back toward a constitutional system, elections and freedom. Now he is being attacked for making statements labeled by the parties as "unacceptable from the democratic viewpoint and disparaging to the dignity and respect which the Peruvian people deserve."

The incident was caused by statements the president made during a news conference on 30 December, when he emphatically said that if the political parties did not include in the new constitution the reforms made by the armed forces in the revolutionary government, the army would dissolve the constituent assembly. The president also said that the transfer promised for 1980 is "one of government and not of power," because the "armed forces will remain vigilant to see what happens."

The American Revolutionary Popular Alliance [APRA], headed by the aging Raul Haya de la Torre, said that "a constituent assembly that is obliged to approve what a de facto government considers necessary would be neither constituent nor sovereign." According to Popular Action [AP], which is headed by former president Fernando Belaunde Terry, who was overthrown by the present regime, the armed forces must make a clear decision on the reinstatement of power to civilians, "eliminating the serious contradictions which evidently exist on such an important subject."

The Popular Christian Party [PPC] was more severe. It labeled the statements made by President Morales Bermudez as illegal and undemocratic, adding that it will participate in the constituent assembly with its own proposals, "regardless of the consequences." Finally, the rightist Peruvian Democratic Movement [MDP] rejected the armed forces threat of "tutelage by force" until 1980, affirming that this would constitute a "negation of the essence of the democratic system."

CONSALVI COMMENTS ON MARITIME DELIMITATION TALKS

PA041931Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 4 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Venezuelan Foreign Minister Simon Alberto Consalvi has said that reports by international news agencies about an agreement with Colombia to freeze the negotiations on the delimitation of marine and submarine areas are all speculation. He said that there has been no talk about this. He added that any speculation on the negotiations between Colombia and Venezuela on marine and submarine areas is inadvisable.

He indicated that a new round of delimitation talks at the level of foreign ministers is not foreseen at this time.

The foreign minister also said that the talks with the Netherlands Antilles on the delimitation of marine and submarine areas will be renewed on 16 January. He said that the negotiations will be held in Willemstad, Curacao. Consalvi announced that the chief of the Venezuelan delegation will be Ambassador Isidro Morales.

CABINET MINISTERS DENY PLANS TO STEP DOWN

PA032259Y Caracas Radio Rumbos Network in Spanish 2100 GMT 3 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Minister of Interior Octavio Lepage has said that there is nothing definite about his leaving the cabinet in order to join the Democratic Action (AD) Party's political campaign. Several mass media have reported that Lepage's departure from the cabinet is imminent. When he was interviewed by reporter Ernesto Vegas, Lepage said: [begin recording] I do not know of any final decision on this matter. [end recording]

Lepage said that so far his party has not asked him to join Luis Pinerua Ordaz' political campaign. He said, however, that if he were asked, he would study the request carefully. [Lepage--begin recording] [words indistinct] Democratic Action and I have never refused to cooperate. In any event, I would have to decide on and carefully study any proposal by the party. On the other hand, I am honored and satisfied to belong to the [words indistinct]. [end recording]

Dr Lepage also said that the complaints by Cuban exiles that they have been persecuted by the government in the wake of attacks on Venezuelan offices abroad are groundless. [Lepage--begin recording] These are entirely groundless complaints. Cuban exiles, as all other exiles, can live in Venezuela in peace without any sort of persecution or pressure by the government. Their only restriction is that they cannot become involved in political activities in Venezuela. [end recording]

Arnoldo Jose Gabaldon, minister of environment and renewable natural resources, also has denied any plans to step down in order to dedicate himself to the political campaign for the AD candidate. A capital city newspaper has reported that Gabaldon will manage Pinerua Ordaz' campaign in Carabobo State. When Ernesto Vegas asked him if there was any truth to the report, Gabaldon said: [begin recording] What the newspaper reported is sheer speculation, which is normal among the internal party mechanisms in charge of suggesting names to the various electoral bodies. The truth, however, is that my major responsibility is to the office that has been entrusted to me [words indistinct]. [end recording]

ECONOMIC, COMMERCIAL TIES WITH SOUTH AFRICA BROKEN

FL041942Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 4 Jan 78 FL

[Text] The Government of Mexico has announced it has broken economic and commercial relations with South Africa in protest over the apartheid policy practiced by the South African regime. The newspaper EL DIA notes that Mexico previously had broken sports and cultural ties with the Pretoria regime.

UPCOMING VISITS BY ODUBER, GEISEL, MONDALE REPORTED

FL042124Y Mexico City INFORMEX in Spanish to ANSA Buenos Aires 2114 GMT 4 Jan 78 FL

[Text] Mexico City, 4 Jan (ANSA-INFORMEX)--The Costa Rican and Brazilian presidents, Daniel Oduber and Ernesto Geisel, respectively, and U.S. Vice President Walter Mondale will visit Mexico this month.

The Mexican Foreign Secretariat has confirmed that Oduber will be in Mexico from 10 to 11 January, Geisel's visit will take place 14 to 18 January, and Mondale's stay in this capital will be from 20 to 22 January.

It was reported that the Central American chief of state will come to ratify the economic exchange agreements signed with President Jose Lopez-Portillo last year in the tourist city of Cancun, located on the extreme eastern part of the country. Geisel will seek to formalize contracts for the sale of Mexican oil to Brazil. For his part, Mondale will discuss the problem of undocumented workers and will try to renegotiate the cancelled agreement on the sale of gas to the United States.

PEMEX REPORTS ON DOMESTIC SALES THROUGH 1982

FL022220Y Mexico City INFORMEX in Spanish to ANSA Buenos Aires 2115 GMT 2 Jan 78 FL

[Text] Mexico City, 2 Jan (ANSA-INFORMEX)--Mexican Petroleum [PEMEX] has announced that domestic sales through 1982 should amount to 3.5 billion dollars, approximately. In addition, it pointed out that in the next 5 years its storage capacity should increase by 2,540,000 barrels. The state enterprise indicated that it needs to build new pipelines at a cost of $34 million and acquire 2,300 new vehicles for transporting cargo, among which are railroad tank cars, tank trucks and trucks for general cargo. With respect to foreign trade, PEMEX asserted that the crude oil it is exploiting could successfully compete with that being exported by Venezuela and Middle East countries.

TORRIJOS SPEAKS BEFORE VISITING U.S. SENATORS

PA042307Y Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1609 GMT 4 Jan 78 PA

[Speech by Panamanian Chief of Government Omar Torrijos on 4 January 1978 at Isabel Herrera Obaldia Professional School with U.S. Senators Howard Baker, John Chafee and Jake Garn in attendance--recorded]

[Text] We are here at the third of many meetings that may be held. What is important, however, is that you reach the conclusion that the government does attach importance to this re-training, which sort of breaks away from the traditional pattern for high school graduates. As I said the first time we were together--when you did not understand me well and remained hesitant because you could not realize that this is a departure from the conventional system of 6 years of grade school, 6 of high school, 6 of university and then the labor market.

Students enter the labor market when they are 25, 26 or 27 years old. Until that time they have not been able to contribute anything because the educational system is designed in such a way that Panamanian youths do not begin contributing toward the nation's wealth before the age of 24. At that age girls generally get married and then produce nothing. [laughter and talking by audience] That is the way it is, and do not deny it. [more talking by audience]

However, now we will talk within a context, within a more ample framework, and you will continue discussing the plan after I leave with the honorable senators who are present. They are leaders who have come to obtain knowledge of Panama's reality. In the same way we held a plebiscite because we were convinced that this was a historical responsibility, they too have to cast a vote convinced of the importance and far-reaching effects of their vote in the Senate.

If we leave the problem, as Professor Gloria [not further identified] says, there is going to be a huge discussion here, because I cannot allow--and this is not part of the nature of Panamanians--a discussion to take place here and then our guests, who are not your guests, who are also your guests [laughter] to be blamed for everything that has happened during 60 years of history [sentence as heard]. That is not the idea.

The idea is that they understand that Panama is not a canal, that Panama is a nation, that [here] there are youths who have feelings, think and raise questions; that Panama is not thinking of the canal in terms of economic benefits but of a national banner, of an integrated geography and the disappearance of a situation which constitutes the planting of one nation into another.

This is the way it was, and we are not going to ask why it was like that. Sometimes, a thorough study of history leads to the awakening of deep feelings of resentment or deep gulfs of misunderstanding. The senators' presence in Panama shows that they are honest and that they will study the problem before adopting a decision.

What are you laughing about? [laughter] Do you know why they are laughing? It is because the old man got up this morning in a nagging mood. Isn't it so? [laughter]

How many of you voted in the plebiscite? Raise your hands. [laughter] I am not going to ask you how you voted because when a man is in front of a polling place or faced with a plebiscite he is before his conscience and his inner self, and one does not pry into a man's inner self.

That is why I do not want you to investigate the intimate thoughts of my three guests. In your opinion, was the plebiscite orderly or disorderly? Were you forced to go to the polls, or did you go out of conviction? I want you to explain this to them. These are the questions, and I am prompting you on the answers so you will not flunk the test. [laughter]

Am I a dictator through bayonets, through force, or am I a dictator through love? [audience says "love"] Do you think the Panamanian has been born who can shut the mouth of another Panamanian? [Do you think] the day he is born he will take to guerrilla warfare and terrorism to topple another Panamanian?

No one can own anyone else's life or impose or deprive a people of their freedom. No one. When I come here and hold a discussion with you, and when you raise questions and complaints and attack the government, I appear to become disgusted. But when I leave here I am pleased because I can say, look, the day this generation leaves--and I hope it will be soon because we are already boring--a conscious generation will be left behind that will not allow any type of enslavement. So I want you to greet the senators very warmly. When they leave, I want you to applaud them and blow a kiss to them like this, [laughter] as you know how to be pleasant and courteous, and them I will leave you alone to talk with the authorities in charge of drafting the plan.

And I will tell you something I had not told you before. We could have held one meeting instead of three. However, I wanted to see how much interest you showed and to see how many would fall by the wayside. I also wanted those who say that the general is not going to come back and that he will come here, hand out diplomas and make promises he will never keep, that it is all a story and they will have to take back their words. That's a lot of words, isn't it? So, I wonder if Senator Baker would like to say hello to the youths, with no arguments. He will be asking the questions, not you. Be careful, the program is running smoothly, so don't spoil it for me. [laughter and applause]

EXILES, STUDENTS PROTEST CHILEAN REFERENDUM

PA050426Y Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 4 Jan 78 PA

[Text] A number of Chilean exiles resident in Panama and members of the Federation of Panamanian Students and other student organizations today picketed the Chilean Embassy in this capital to protest the plebiscite that Gen Augusto Pinochet convoked today in his country.

The exiles gathered along Via Espana in front of the Mini Max supermarket and marched toward the embassy, which is located on 51st Street. The students started thier march at the University of Panama. Both groups carried banners and placards expressing the general feeling of repudiation for the so-called Chilean national consultation called by the military government headed by Pinochet. This consultation is aimed at getting support for the regime in the face of repeated condemnations for its violations of human rights.

The Panamanian students and the Chilean exiles in our country thus joined world protests against the Chilean military government's political maneuver. The Chilean regime is accused of seeking an apparent legalization of its political leadership, which came into power after the coup on 11 September 1973 that overthrew the Popular Unity government led by the deceased President Salvador Allende.

The Chilean exiles and the Panamanian students joined their voices to shout democratic slogans and denounce the farce being staged within a framework of repression that is characterized by the curfew and the state of siege to which the Chilean people are subjected. One million Chileans are currently exiled, the opposition has gone underground and the jails are full of those who adopt an antifascist position.

The protest in front of the Chilean Embassy was staged peacefully, and after holding a meeting to repudiate Pinochet's regime and voice their solidarity with the Chilean people, both students and exiles withdrew toward the University of Panama, their homes or their places of work.

POLITICIANS DISCUSS DEMOCRATIC OPENING

PA041925Y Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0230 GMT 5 Jan 78 PA

["Enfoques" discussion program moderated by Televisora Nacional News Director Mario Velasquez and Itzel de Rangel with Liberal Party President David Samudio and Dr Mario Galindo at Televisora Nacional news studio in Panama City--presumably live]

[Excerpts] [Velasquez] I have said that in my opinion there have been signs of a democratic opening in this country. Some of them are probably small signs, while others are more evident. Mr Samudio, as a journalist I have been noticing these signs for the past 20 months, let us say.

There has been greater participation by the people by means of the communications media. Also, the professional, labor and economic sectors have had greater participation. The plebiscite--an interesting debate in my opinion--its results and all the events that have come to pass such as political party and political group meetings as well as public statements, some of them very strong, criticizing the government indicate that there is a true change now in relation to the situation in this country 4 or 5 years ago. This is my opinion. I do not know how far this opening will go or what forms it will take. I would like to hear your opinion regarding this interesting and controversial subject.

[Samudio] Of course, Mario. I would say that there was an opening as a result of the plebiscite on the treaties so that these important documents could be discussed. Prior to that it was not possible for the political parties to meet and to speak freely about fundamental subjects concerning the republic.

It was obvious that because of the plebiscite the government would provide an opportunity for all political parties, civic entities and citizens to give their opinions on documents so important for the life of the republic.

The Liberal Party met with absolute freedom. Its National Board of Directors held two meetings to discuss its opinion of the treaties. This is where the opening began and this is when we began stating our opinions regarding the treaties. Before this, I believe, the conditions that allowed us to freely state our opinions had not been present since the revolutionary government took power.

[Velasquez] Dr Galindo, what is your opinion in this regard?

[Galindo] I agree with Samudio in that the political opening began after the call for the plebiscite that resulted in the approval of the Torrijos-Carter treaties.

It must be recalled that before that time the government had been highly intolerant of the right to dissent of those who did not agree with the government in general or with some specific measures approved by the government or with some of the institutions that have been created. It must be recalled that the government closed a radio station that criticized it. It must also be recalled that the government blocked the publication of newspapers which were correctly assumed to be those of the opposition and that the activities of the political parties were banned.

This situation began to change as a result of the plebiscite. This was the most visible sign of the start of the democratic opening. It must also be considered that this opening was vital to the government's interest in having the treaties ratified. Without the opening, the ratification would have been much more difficult. So we can ask ourselves: Was the ratification of the treaties the government's only reason for allowing this democratic opening? We can ask ourselves also if the government, once this objective has been attained, will be tempted to abruptly cancel the democratic opening.

In this regard, I would like to give my personal opinion. A person does not have to be very sharp to realize that there are political groups in and out of the government that do not like in the least the democratic opening. Those political groups have tactically retreated at this time in order to avoid difficulties with regard to the ratification of the treaties, but once the treaties are ratified it is highly probable that they will apply all the political weight they have, if they have any, and use all their powers of persuasion to convince the government of the inappropriateness of a democratic opening.

So, on the one hand, the democratic opening will depend on the government being interested in it and, on the other, on the opposition groups and especially the Panamanian people wanting it. If this is the situation, the democratic opening will continue. Otherwise, there is the risk of the democratic opening being closed once the Torrijos-Carter treaties are approved. This is my opinion in this regard.

[Rangel] Samudio, I would like to ask you the following question: In the statements that you and Galindo made at the beginning of the program, you seemed to indicate that it was this government which permitted the democratic opening. It was apparently a concession to the political parties and not a struggle that the parties won. If this is the case, have the political parties had time to mature during the past 2 or 3 months of the democratic opening and to set forth a clear political proposal on alternatives, not only to the current social and economic crisis but as far as ideology is concerned? That is, do you really represent a change and what can you propose at this time?

[Samudio] I do not know if I have correctly understood Mrs Rangel's question. It seems she believes that this government has granted a democratic opening and we should be highly satisfied with it. Of course, we are satisfied that we can express our opinions. But we should also note that during 9 years we were not permitted to freely express our views. We have answers to the serious problems that are affecting the country right now in the social and economic fields.

[Velasquez] I wonder if democracy can only occur through the operation of traditional political parties. Are we thinking that the democratic opening has to take place in the same terms of the political game played before October 1968 or have the political parties, after these 9 years of crisis, improved and learned their lesson and are they willing to be real instruments of public opinion? The Liberal Party is a party which represents the masses. Other parties, such as the Panamenist, are also mass parties. But in Panama we had political parties which were extensions of economic groups. So I would like to know if the democratic opening is going to take place in those same terms.

[Galindo] That is a very timely comment. As a result of the decree which declared the abolition of the political parties, I delivered a lecture at the university some time in 1969 or 1970 in which I specifically referred to the problem of the Panamanian political parties. I pointed out the apparent mistakes, defects and weaknesses of the parties. It is evident that we cannot seek a democratic opening that will simply be a return to the past as if nothing had occurred in the almost 10 years since 1968. We have to make some serious proposals in view of the national problems. We have to be aware that the masses are not just a group at which we can shout political slogans. We have to tackle the country's real problems. Each party must take a position concerning those problems. It must explain the solutions it offers. We are not going to make an inventory of those problems right now. It is evident that the political opening and the reestablishment of the parties cannot mean a return to the past.

Another important thing concerning this subject is the internal democratization of the political parties. If an electoral code is going to promulgated, let it be one which has provisions that guarantee the democratic operation of the parties. It should also guarantee that the parties are not going to be controlled by economic oligarchies as in the past. This brings us to the subject of the financing of political parties. In the lecture I delivered at the university, I specifically proposed that the state help or completely finance the political parties in roder to give them true ideological autonomy. I am pleased to note that the 1972 Constitution includes this idea and establishes that the state will provide the necessary financing in order to guarantee that the political parties operate without needing the economic groups. I think we can only speak of a democratic opening in those terms. It is also true, and this is a concrete reply to Mrs Rangel's question, that the political parties have been inactive and perhaps have not obtained through a struggle the right to political participation. But it is a matter of taking advantage of this democratic opening in order to establish their proposals and struggle against the country's real problems.

[Samudio] This undoubtedly means that in order to have a democratic opening and so that the political parties can operate, an electoral code must be issued. It has already been studied by distinguished figures of this government. It can be corrected so that the provisions can be established which will permit the parties to operate without falling into the hands of certain economic oligarchies and to truly represent the popular will.

[Velasquez] Samudio, let us try to be more specific. How do you think that the democratic opening should take place? How do you think it should be implemented?

[Samudio] I think that the operation of the political parties should establish requirements for the registration and operation of political parties. It is logical that measures must be taken so that the persons on the parties' registration lists are truly persons who belong or want to belong to the parties. In this way, we would prevent a number of isolated parties from padding their registration lists when election time comes around. Measures should also be taken to prevent the parties from falling into the hands of those who call themselves owners of the parties. In party national conventions, the delegates should be elected by various electoral districts of the country. In this way, the delegates will not be appointed but elected by party members. I must state here that the Liberal Party is the only party that in 1967 elected its delegates through a vote by all its members.

[Velasquz] Regarding this subject of political parties and the democratic opening, I think that all should not be left up to the government. Therefore, Galindo, don't you think that much depends on the parties?

[Galindo] Of course, I believe that the political parties and all groups are interested in consolidating the democratic opening. We have the obligation to work to consolidate it by taking advantage of this Indian summer. We are still in the Indian summer. We will later see if it is a democratic opening. It is still too early to issue an opinion on this.

We also have to question the electoral and political institutions of the country. I honestly believe that if the democratic opening is to be real it should mean the direct election of the president of the republic. I do not agree with the indirect election of the president through the Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives. The reason for this is that the assembly, which has that essential function of electing the president, is the result of an electoral system that permits a minority to choose the president of the republic. There is no special justification for having chosen the corregimiento as the country's basic political cell. There are cases such as the following: for example, in the Las Tablas District there are 24 corregimientos. In the last plebiscite that district cast less than 10,000 votes, while San Miguelito District, which only 5 corregimiento representatives, cast 62,000 votes and Panama District, with 19 corregimiento representatives, cast nearly 230,000 votes. Now, if we add the votes from these two districts we get approximately 280,000 votes and 24 representatives, while the Las Tablas District, with less than 10,000 votes, also has 24 representatives.

Such a system, in my opinion, is unsuitable. I believe the president as well as the legislators should be elected by the people, and not as it is done today with the legislative body being chosen or appointed by the president of the republic or by General Torrijos. Such a system cannot produce a truly democratic opening.

[Velasquez] Dr Galindo , in this stage of the nation's political development, how do you think we should proceed in this democratic opening with the participation of the political parties, especially in view of the elections scheduled for August?

[Galindo] It is obvious that the only way to change the electoral structures is through a constituent assembly. I do not know if there is time or if there is any intention to make such a change before then. However, if such a constitutional amendment is not made, the elections will have to be held, perhaps with the participation of political parties, but with the present electoral structures. I want to make it clear that I am not proposing a return to the previous electoral system, which I believe was suitable.

I do believe that we should avail ourselves of whatever possibilities the Assembly of Corregimientos offers. I would propose, for example, that the provinces be divided into electoral circuits [circuitos], with more or less equivalent population; that each of these electoral circuits elect one representative, one deputy or a congressman, whatever name you want to give it. This representative must have his residence in that circuit so that there may be a true relationship between the representatives and their electors. I would propose that each political party nominate one candidate in the various electoral circuits. Besides, I also believe in the appropriateness of maintaining free nomination along with party nomination in order to prevent the parties, through the monopoly of the right of nomination, from setting aside some persons who for some reason or another the parties do not want to admit onto the political scene. Therefore, I would propose free nomination along with partisan nomination within this new electoral system, upholding the requirement of residence to avoid some of the past deficiencies.

[Velasquez] Samudio, what is your opinion in that respect?

[Samudio] I believe these observations are most important because they imply correcting the experiences we have had concerning the corregimiento representatives. I would like to reiterate what has been said, bringing to your attention, for example, that in the last elections there were 31 corregimiento representatives who received less that 75 votes each. Those 31 corregimientos cast 2,009 votes, which cannot be compared, for example, with the Calidonia sector which cast 20,000 votes to obtain one representative.

On the other hand, Chiriquiz Province has the largest number of representatives--102--while it cast 89,000 votes. Panama Province cast 280,000 votes for 96 representatives. This shows that the vote does not have the same intrinsic value, as 48 citizens can elect one representative while in another district 20 or more electors are necessary.

We should not criticize everything. I believe that the concept, the idea of representatives, is sound because the elected representatives come from the sectors in which they reside and they are, therefore, well aware of their sectors' problems. This also avoids some practices of the past such as the case of persons who, having never been in Bocas del Toro Province, were chosen candidates for that province.

However, since a chamber of 505 representatives is inefficient and the value of a vote is not the same, we can maintain the concept of representatives but use the electoral circuits mentioned by Dr Galindo, based on the population contained in a number of corregimientos, to choose a deputy or representative.

We must take into account how the corregimientos were created. They were created in Panama for reasons of communications more than anything else. For example, in Cerro Iglesias, in order to obtain a permit to burn brush, to register a child, to file a complaint because cattle entered someone else's premises, the members of this community had to walk long distances to file their complaints and so forth. This prompted the creation of corregimientos in order to have an authority at hand to settle these conflicts.

[Velasquez] In other words, they were administrative rather than political entities?

[Samudio] That is right. These are the corregimientos. That is why we find corregimientos with an electoral population of 75 persons, of whom 10 cast their votes at the time of elections.

[Rangel] Would these electoral circuits eliminate the corregimientos or function with the single purpose of serving during elections?

[Galindo] I would say that they would be groups of corregimientos, so to speak. You would take a specific number of corregimientos to make an electoral circuit, with the function of electing the members of the legislative body, not the president of the republic because I insist that the election of the president should be direct.

This system we have outlined, and which is well known, does not guarantee representation to the majorities. [as heard] In theory, this criticism is valid. However, corrective measures can be applied such as the following: if in an election there is a lack of proportion between the number of votes for a specific party and the number of seats it wins or if, on the contrary, there is a party with a representative number of votes but which fails to win a seat, or wins a very few seats, then the equilibrium could be restored by adding seats to the assembly, which will be occupied by the representatives of the party failing to have adequate representation. There are mechanisms in political science that allow for the solution of such problems.

[Velasquez] Dr Galindo said he believes that the opening to secure the democratization process would be a constituent assembly. Samudio, what is your opinion in this respect?

[Samudio] Look here, Mario! If we were to view the current situation in the country, the economic crisis--which we cannot overlook--the unfavorable conditions for investment--which is creating the biggest difficulties in the economy--unemployment and so forth, and if we were to view the serious problem we are facing with approval of the canal treaties in regard to the great responsibility Panama is to assume, then we must admit that we are at the crucial moment of great decisions.

You said we are approaching an election. I ask you, what election? We are politicians. The government announces, according to the Constitution, elections for August and changes in the public institutions for October. But nobody knows anything about elections, absolutely nothing.

If, however, as good Panamanians we accept the need to seek national formulas to solve the Panamanian problems, then it is worthwhile to discuss the amendments that should be made to the national Constitution. Such amendments primarily include the way to pass laws. The formula to pass laws through the legislation commission offers no guarantees because in modern states the drafting of laws is the result of the appreciation of the people's needs by the state and its officials.

When a law is to be drafted, all persons who will be affected are called to study the appropriateness of such a law. That is why the system of passing laws through a national assembly, to which bills are submitted, provides a specific period of time in which the committees are allowed to review them--you know about this because you have been secretary of the assembly, you are familiar with the process. When a bill has been enacted into law, it actually constitutes the consensus of opinions, which gives it the backing to be enacted as a law.

The current legislative process cannot offer any guarantees because it is a method of making laws without proper consultation, as such legislators are appointed by the executive branch. Separation of powers is fundamental.

Therefore, we would have to have a strong executive branch with enough powers to govern the country and to draft a budget--which is the chief element of social and economic planning--a budget that could not be reversed by the national assembly. We would need to establish a representative national assembly, as we have previously said, with duly designated functions so it will not become a budgetary or prosecuting group, which could take action against any public official, as was the case with the previous national assemblies. We would need a judicial branch with its own resources so it could enforce the laws and so that both Panamanians and foreigners living among us could have the certainty of being protected by laws. In order to make these changes, to introduce amendments to the electoral code, we would have to have a constituent assembly.

Now then, the important thing is that this constituent assembly must be based on a consensus of politicians and citizens who can contribute with their knowledge to forming a really effective constituent assembly capable of making the constitutional amendments required by the people. We would be willing to cooperate in forming this constituent assembly, provided that consultations are held to establish it.

[Velasquez] Dr Galindo, regarding the other options, do you think there is any other possibility of a political way out?

[Galindo] Actually, I see no way out other than holding an election under the present institutions or holding an election to select a constituent assembly to change the current structures. For the sake of discussion, perhaps there could be a third possibility: that is, holding a sort of plebiscite to ask the people if they want to maintain the current institutions. They could be asked if they want the president to be elected directly or if they want the present system to continue, if they wish legislators to be elected directly or the continuation of the present system. The people can be consulted on this basis. If their opinion is favorable to change, we would then hold a national dialog to draft this change. If the nation wishes to maintain the present structures, then this decision must be respected because it falls within the realm of popular prerogatives.

Now then, when one talks of political change one must be precise. The intention here is not in the least to promote changes aimed, for instance, at placing the state in a straitjacket in order to prevent it from making direct investments in economic activities. This is not the intention. I believe any progressive person or any fairly knowledgeable or wise person can realize that today the state must participate in the promotion of economic activities through direct investments in order to infuse dynamism into the economy. Nor is the intention one of taking away the conquests of the various social sectors which have achieved them in recent years.

For instance, the intention is not to question the very concrete freedom of workers to organize into trade unions and to negotiate collective contracts. There is no intention to question the very concrete freedom of peasants to become productive forces through peasant settlements and cooperatives or through individual efforts with state assistance in countless ways. So, this is not the intention in any way. On the contrary, the positive aspects of these things must be consolidated and maintained.

Now then, private enterprise has an important role to play in the country's economic development, not only because our reality says so but because the international reality says so.

Each economic system has its corresponding political system. I believe that part of the lack of confidence mentioned by Samudio in regard to investments is that the political system we have does not provide incentives to private enterprise, which has a role to play in the country's social and economic development, even if some people may not like this. This is an objective reality. This is a conclusion arising from an objective analysis of our concrete reality. This is one more reason to look for a solution to these problems.

Station Criticizes Program

PA042345Y Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 4 Jan 78 PA

[Station commentary: "Charlie Chaplin's Successors"]

[Text] One of the greatest comedians of all times, Charlie Chaplin, died in Switzerland before the end of 1977. In the meantime, here in Panama, a group of politicians was getting ready to put on a television comedy inspired by the clown Charley who brought so much laughter to the world in the 1920's.

These actors did not wear caps like Pierrot's or Italian theater Punchinello. They were dressed as normal professional people. What was really funny was their language. It was their sarcasm that was fun.

The title of the play--and not by coincidence--was "The Democratic Opening in Panama." This is a politicians' soap opera. It was brought to the screen to speak about their bitterness and their heartache, because in 1968 they lost their power and their carnivals, with all sorts of colorful masked persons, came to an end.

One of the actors--who finally spoke out following a long silence and self-imposed censorship--made it evident that the traditional forces that every 4 years created election-time scandals have very little to offer. A senile vision of life and the defense of the Colombian liberalism of the beginning of the century were the main characteristics of this pantomime on television.

One of the actors called for a return to the humiliating past, and it was also said that democratic freedoms must culminate with the approval of electoral circuits [circuitos], after 6 years of people's power. All this can only move one to laughter.

Definitely, the quality of the drama left much room for thought, especially from those persons who in the past few days have participated in motorcades and have dusted off records with hymns from fanatical groups in order to be in an almost romantic mood.

Among some grimaces and gestures from Dale Carnegie courses, the interlocutors were unable to come up with alternatives to solve the economic and social problems of our country, which is now struggling for the ratification of the treaties in the U.S. Senate.

In the midst of all this, there is a funny note because the people have a sense of the ridiculous and know the difference between a comedy and real life.

Undoubtedly, Charlie Chaplin will continue living in the hearts of those who admired him not only as an actor but also as a critic of human misery. His character, apparently, is now beginning to be played by the Panamanian oligarchy and by the masquerading old parties. We wish them success during carnival time.

INTERNAL REVENUE DIRECTOR REPORTS 1977 COLLECTION FIGURES

PA050319Y Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 4 Jan 78 PA

[Excerpt] Fernando Aramburu, national internal revenue director at the Ministry of Finance and Treasury, has reported that 61.1 million more balboas were collected in 1977 than in 1976. He added that the collection estimates for 1977 totaled 335.7 million balboas. December closed with a collection figure of 44 million, bringing the overall total to 342.8 million balboas, while 281.6 million balboas were collected in 1976.

He itemized the various revenue sources: income tax collections increased by 19.9 million balboas; real estate taxes remained the same; import tariffs increased by 1.8 million balboas; export taxes increased by 500,000 balboas; production and sales taxes increased by 3.3 million balboas; taxes on the revenue of state-run firms increased by 3.6 million balboas; other revenue sources increased by 1.3 million balboas; and the collection of the recently created tax on the transfer of goods, or the 5-percent [sales] tax, amounted to 30.8 million balboas.

However, in comparing the revenue estimates that the ministry made and the revenue reported by the end of 1977, only income tax collections exceeded the estimates by 14.5 million balboas, while the other items did not even reach the estimated revenue. As far as the 1978 budget is concerned, Dr Aramburu said that efforts are being made to keep it at the level of the 1977 budget, stressing that it will report a very slight increase. He also noted that efforts will be made this year to control spending so as not to spend too much despite all the changes that will be made in the public services for the benefit of the people.

TRIBUNAL STUDYING DRAFT DECREE ON REPRESENTATIVES' ELECTION

PA050305Y Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 4 Jan 78 PA

[Text] The electoral tribunal is studying a draft decree calling for popular elections to elect the 505 corregimiento representatives and their respective alternates for the constitutional period beginning on 11 October 1978.

The electoral process would run from 13 February, when the period for the nomination of candidates and the inscription of followers would begin, until 16 August when credentials would be presented to the winners.

BELIZE

GOVERNMENT STEADFAST ON POLICY OF TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY

FL041520Y Belize City THE BELIZE TIMES in English 25 Dec 77 p 1 FL

[Text] The premier repeated the government's policy on the territorial integrity of a securely independent Belize in the face of pressures to cede some Belizean land in a settlement of Guatemala's unfounded claim to Belize. The premier was speaking at a large public meeting of the People's United Party held at Court House Plaza in Belize City on Friday night last week.

The pressures as described by the premier include Guatemala's demand for land, Alejandro Vernon's message to the United Nations advocating a land settlement and the newspaper REPORTER's proposal to surrender a portion of Belize to solve the problem.

The premier added that these pressures were also coming from some nations in the Americas which saw land cession as a solution.

Whatever the outcome and final solution the premier said that government remained steadfast on the principle of a secure independence and territorial integrity, and that the people would be informed of it and there would be consultation with the people.

In his address the premier referred to newspaper articles on the subject which appeared in the British press

COSTA RICA

STRONG EARTHQUAKE SHAKES CAPITAL

PA042356Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2348 GMT 4 Jan 78 PA

[Text] San Jose, Costa Rica, 4 Jan (LATIN)--A strong seismic movement shook this capital at 1654 local time (2254 GMT). The tremor was of such magnitude that it caused objects to fall in most buildings and the smashing of windows in several. The residents of the capital have left their jobs and taken to the streets in panic. At the moment, the magnitude of the earthquake and its epicenter are unknown.

No Casualties Reported

PA050035Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2356 GMT 4 Jan 78 PA

[Text] San Jose, Costa Rica, 4 Jan (AFP)--The earthquake that shook the Costa Rican capital this afternoon measured 4.2 on the Richter scale, and early reports do not mention casualties or property damage. The epicenter has not yet been established. According to the university, the seismic movement was of tectonic nature and only affected the earth's crust.

GUATEMALA

EGP CLAIMS RESPONSIBLITY FOR KIDNAPING

PA041417Y Guatemala City Radio Fabulosa Network in Spanish 1220 GMT 4 Jan 78 PA

[Sercano network]

[Text] Guatemala City--The Poor People's Guerrilla Army [EGP] has claimed responsibility for the kidnaping of former Foreign Minister Roberto Herrera Ibarguen at noon on 31 December, which resulted in the death of his bodyguard.

The EGP, a Marxist-Leninist organization, has imposed two conditions for the release of Dr Herrera Ibarguen: publication of Dr Herrera's activities as interior minister with details concerning kidnapings, assassinations and torture of revolutionary elements, to be paid for by Dr Herrera's family and transmitted over radio and television; and payment of a ransom, the amount to be revealed exclusively to the former minister's relatives.

The EGP also claimed responsibility for the kidnaping of industrialist Luis Canella Gutierrez in early December 1977, which resulted in his death when he resisted the kidnaping attempt. His body was found the following day.

The relatives of Dr Herrera Ibarguen have already started the necessary actions to comply with the first condition imposed by the kidnapers, although the text of the publication has not been revealed.

Meanwhile, President Kjell Eugenio Laugerud Garcia, when asked by reporters at the presidential palace about the government's attitude concerning the conditions to release Dr Herrera, said his government will permit the corresponding publication and payment of the ransom in order to save the life of his personal friend and government adviser, Roberto Herrera Ibarguen.

POLITICAL MEETING CALLED BY LAUGERUD TERMED TOTAL FAILURE

PA042154Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1558 GMT 4 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 4 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--As predicted by political observers, the meeting called by President Kjell Laugerud Garcia with Guatemala's presidential cnadidates was a complete failure. The meeting was called for yesterday evening, but in the end it was reduced to a meeting between Col Enrique Peralta Azurdia, candidate of the anticommunist National Liberation Movement, and President Laugerud.

Gens Fernando Romeo Lucas Garcia and Ricardo Peralta Mendez, candidates of a coalition and of the Christian Democracy, respectively, did not show up for different reasons. Lucas Garcia did not attend the meeting because of delays in the flights that were to bring him back from Caracas, Venezuela, where he has been visitng since before Christmas. Peralta Mendez was absent in protest over the rejection of his proposal that members of the press be present at the meeting.

The purpose of these meetings called by the president, which last year were attended by leaders of the various political parties, is to guarantee that the 5 March elections are held in peace.

The parties have signed a document promising not to resort to oral or physical violence during the campaign, but once engaged in the pre-electoral campaign they forget this document. The meeting with the candidates seeks to strengthen and broaden this commitment.

Last night, after a long wait, a new summit was announced for next month. It is hoped that by then the differences in form that made the one scheduled for last night fail will have been overcome.

HONDURAS

MELGAR CASTRO ADDRESSES NATION AT YEAR'S END

PA011923Y Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 0108 GMT 1 Jan 78 PA

[Yearend speech to the nation by Honduran Chief of State Juan Alberto Melgar Castro on 31 December--live or recorded; intercepted in progress]

[Excerpts] Efforts to develop production have been promoted, directed and supported in areas of concentrated rural development as well as in various other areas of the country where there are already settlements whose definitive success is almost assured. In the rural areas, the definitive results show a greater incorporation of peasants in the productive process and the relevant establishment of peace and harmony as a result of the maturity of the peasants and the agricultural business sector's understanding of the process. In order to maintain these favorable conditions, the government will continue to issue the measures and mechanisms necessary so that by implementing the law to deepen the agrarian reform process the increasing rate of production will not only be maintained, but will be accelerated in accordance with the national needs.

In the economic area, the figures show that we have achieved important advances. The national economy increased its growth, reaching an almost 8-percent growth rate in real terms, which added to the 6.1-percent growth rate in real terms during 1976 means that there has been a 2-year period of high increases, irrefutable proof that the economic recovery has been consolidated. The real per capita income in 1973, the highest ever obtained, which was reduced by the serious reverses we faced in 1974 and 1975, has been amply surpassed in 1977 after registering a strong and sustained increase in the past 2 years. These results are even more satisfactory if we view them in the light of prospects for the immediate future when I am sure that the growth will be even more rapid.

All the people know that these achievements have been obtained at the same time that we have opportunely fulfilled the requirements of the defense of our sacred territory. We have attained this situation because of the favorable concurrence during 1977 of two factors of great dynamism. First of all, our exports were 26 percent higher than in 1976 due not only to favorable coffee prices but also to the recovery of banana production and the increase of traditional and nontraditional products. In the same way, the increase of the Gross National Product can be attributed to dynamic investment, particularly that of the public sector. In a lesser degree, it can be attributed to the increase of consumer expenditures as a result of the increase of the national income. Public investment during 1977 increased by 28 percent in monetary terms and by 17 percent in real terms. This was a higher increase than in 1976.

The results of our foreign trade and financial operations show a surplus as can be demonstrated by the high level of international reserves we maintained throughout the year, an increase of almost 60 million lempiras over the previous year.

For Honduras, this situation resulted in a favorable balance of payments situation. Because of this, in accordance with the rules of the international monetary system, for the first time in history our country was called on to provide resources through the International Monetary Fund to other nations with an unfavorable balance of payments situation.

Nevertheless, as is normal in all developing nations, international goods and services operations continued to show a deficit--282 million lempiras--which is higher than in 1976 and which is largely due to an increase in imports resulting from local production and investments. The highest increases were in fuels, chemical products, machinery and transportation machinery.

Regarding the government's financial situation, it was characterized by spectacular growth in ordinary revenue and a moderate increase in operating expenses. This permitted higher public savings which helped finance a sustained increase in capital expenses and which required less internal credit than in 1976.

Sustained progress in economic recovery, the initiation and continuation of big public investment projects, the favorable prospects of our exports and, particularly, the work and efforts of all Hondurans living in tranquility, security and peace, allow us to predict that in 1978 our economic growth rate will increase even more. This will complete a 3-year period of high growth rate and sets the foundations for Honduras to start a period of continued development which will mark the path toward progress according to the objectives which the Armed Forces Government has set in its national development plan. This will permit us to continue with renewed emphasis the redistribution of the benefits of an increased national revenue among the less favored sectors of the nation.

In 1978, parallel to an expected increased of 25 percent in the volume of our exports, also a result of marked interest by the military government in increased and diversified production, there will be an extraordinary acceleration which might even reach 40 percent in the volume of public investment to which I have referred, and which will give us a high production rate increase.

The development plan and the technical-administrative system established by the government for the people's economic and social welfare are already beginning to produce the expected results. The agrarian reform, which is the Armed Forces' highest priority program and in which 285 million lempiras were spent in 1977, will continue just as aggressively in the future. But in 1978 and the ensuing years, other great projects will be begun.

The government will also continue stimulating private investments in productive fields, placing special importance on social programs, especially in the areas of education, health and housing.

Development calls for sacrifice. Consequently, it is timely that at the same time that I announce the government's willingness to discipline itself, I should appeal to every sector of our society so that they will guide themselves by the same watchwords of austerity and moderation.

This means that the seller and the producer should not take advantage of the consumer. Let the latter pay just prices and the worker not make excessive demands for increases in wages and other benefits.

I must explain that if the government over which I preside had the capacity, dynamism and determination to rescue the country from the serious economic crisis of 1974 and 1975, it is also in a position to emerge victoriously from the problems which accelerated growth will undoubtedly bring. At this historic crossroads, I feel that the Armed Forces Government has the mission of definitely setting the bases for the accelerated and self-sustained growth of the Honduran economy, of watching and making sure that the process continues, guaranteeing a just and adequate balance between the different sectors participating in national production and the benefits derived from it.

We will give our best efforts and constant diligence to this duty. I am fully convinced that in this effort we will always have the enthusiastic and patriotic support of all. All Hondurans should be dedicated to seeing to it that our country continues progressing firmly and without hesitation so that future generations will have a more prosperous, just and powerful Honduras.

Fellow citizens: The Armed Forces' foreign policy has continued to be based on the principles which Honduras has traditionally upheld. These are respect for the free self-determination of peoples, nonintervention in the affairs of other nations and faithful compliance with international treaties and agreements.

I am pleased to also report that everything leads us to believe that our old problem with the neighboring republic of El Salvador is on the way to a final solution. In fact, on 24 November the agreement by which a mediation procedure was established between the two countries entered into effect. On 12 December in San Jose, Costa Rica, and in accordance with what was established in that agreement, his excellency Jose Luis Bustamante y Rivero, a distinguished former president of Peru and well-known international lawyer, was appointed mediator. This selection was a guarantee of wisdom and impartiality.

In the first weeks of 1978 the mediation process will begin and, for this purpose, the chief of state issued Resolution 315 of 15 November by which a national commission is created independently from the Foreign Office which will be in charge of conducting the negotiations. The commission is composed of the following organizations: A) the negotiating commission composed of the representatives who will be entrusted with the negotiations proper; B) the foreign policy council composed of the former foreign ministers of the republic, which will act as an advisory board for the negotiators; and C) the department of territorial studies formed by distinguished lawyers and engineers, who for many years have been studying everything related to our rights and which will provide the necessary technical assistance.

The basic theses which Honduras has upheld and will continue to uphold will be defended with skill and patriotism, without having this mean there will be inflexible rigidity which will obstruct all conciliatory efforts, because a negotiation in which the parties cling firmly to their own positions without intention of compromising would be condemned to failure from the beginning.

It is for this reason that we enter this new phase of the pacification process between the two nations with optimism and our already proven disposition to reach a prompt and definitive settlement of the problem. So far, there is nothing to show that El Salvador does not share the same wish for the mediation to reach a successful conclusion.

I am sure that in this decisive stage our representatives will have the full confidence and unrestricted support of all Hondurans. They are honest men, chosen for their ability and integrity, who represent the nation's major ideological currents. If the solid union of our people was a decisive factor in the sad days of war, it should also be so in the struggle for the just and honorable peace we desire.

The Honduran nation's greatest desire is to live in peace with all nations on earth, particularly with our geographical neighbors. We want peace based on mutual respect and observance of absolute neutrality in problems pertaining exclusively to other nations. In this sense, I emphatically declare that I will not permit the use of Honduran territory as a sanctuary for elements that want to disrupt order in other states, much less as a hunting ground for foreign repressive forces. The defense of our sovereignty allows for no exceptions or capitulations. That is our belief and we will act accordingly.

In my speeches to the nation on 30 April and 31 December 1975, in the name of the Government of the Armed Forces and the military institution, I made a commitment to the Honduran people that I consider inviolable: namely, when the good of the nation so required, we would design and conduct a process to return the country to constitutional order. This process would be of impecable purity and honesty, guaranteeing to all our fellow citizens their active and serious participation--enthusiastic but calm--in the adoption of the important decisions we must make concerning the challenge of the future.

It is basic in attaining this objective to have the legal instruments that will regulate the events leading to the election and the election itself. The result of these should be respect for the freely expressed will of the majorities within a system in which each citizens' group has equal opportunities.

I want to express recognition of the valuable effort made by the Advisory Council of the Chief of State in preparing the draft law on elections and political organizations. The government places the greatest importance on the reforms introduced to Honduras' traditional legal regulations, and for this reason, in promulgating the new law that will take effect on the first day of the coming year, I have essentially respected those important legal reforms.

The field is thus open for all citizens to participate in the elections. Aside from the traditional political parties, there will also be an opportunity for recently organized parties, those which are in the process of organization and even independent candidates to participate. Norms have been introduced seeking the internal democratization of political groups and insuring that the minorities within these groups have a part in the selection of candidates and party leaders proportional to their strength.

With the system of national electoral quotient [cuociente nacional electoral], the minorities obtaining the minimum number of votes will also be represented in the next national constituent assembly. The finances of political organizations will be regulated to avoid commitments which, when a party assumes the responsibility of government, may undermine its independence and freedom of judgment to govern for the benefit of all.

Nevertheless, the law does not attempt to impose rigid norms nor does it establish detailed regulations. It establishes the basic principles concerned with the national interest and leaves the good judgment of the party members freedom to introduce into their internal regulations what they democratically decide through the process chosen by them and through the authorities and organs they choose.

The government has thought it prudent to limit the law to regulating the elections for deputies to the national constituent assembly. Let the Honduran people, through their freely chosen representatives, be the ones who finally decide at the right time which of the innovations that will now be tested should definitely be incorporated into the legal regulations of the future.

Concerning the national electoral tribunal, the new law provides that it should be composed of a representative of each one of the political parties indicated in the draft law of the advisory council and by a member elected by the supreme court of justice. If in the recent past [words indistinct] in electoral organizations, representatives of organizations and entities whose purposes or objectives were not political in the party sense, this was because at that time there were only two parties in Honduras. To now have representatives from peasant, labor, management, student and other similar organizations in electoral matters would not be justified. This would increase the number of the members of the national tribunal to a disproportionately large number which would make it difficult to reach decisions expeditiously and which would cause unjustified delay.

The national electoral tribunal will determine the precise date the elections will be held. The tribunal and its departmental and local organizations will have the responsibility of conducting exemplary elections, free from the evils of the past and setting standards for the future. In accordance with the provisions of the law, it will be up to the rest of the civilian and military authorities of the country to offer all the support and assistance requested of them by the electoral body.

The executive branch is ready to do its duty and already has the necessary funds to cover the tribunal's budget when it is presented. The chief of state and the Council of Ministers have considered it advisable, before enacting the law on the national registration of voters--which was also drawn up by the advisory council of the chief of state--to listen to the opinions on the law issued by the national electoral tribunal within the first 60 days of its operation. This proves the authorities' intention of entrusting the leadership of the elections with the persons who know it best and who with most dedication should insure its honesty.

The government does not want to intervene and has no intention of directing the elections along predetermined lines. At this time, it is proper for me to express my personal satisfaction with the orderly and conscientious way in which we have advanced so far in the process of creating a new constitutional order--as I said previously--without exaggerated haste, without politicking and without convulsing the country in sterile, premature strife.

It is most important for us to be able to maintain this moderation in the time that remains ahead, because it must be understood that the enforcement of a new constitution, despite the importance it entails for the nation's normal legal functioning, does not by itself resolve the great problems of economic and social underdevelopment which have been, are and will continue to be the permanent object of the coordinated struggle of the Honduran people.

In other words, we should not politicize the country before the time is right. We should preserve at all costs the calm and harmony which are conducive to productive work.

I never tire of reiterating that in Honduras there are no guerrillas, no kidnapings, no political murders, no political extortion. In Honduras there is an atmosphere of social peace which is unfortunately enjoyed by few nations in this violent world. In my opinion, this peace should be appreciated and its maintenance should be to all--the governed and the governing--a permanent, priority commitment. We should defend it, preserve it and strengthen it because it is the most precious thing we enjoy.

The government is doing the best it can along these lines. Evidence of this can be seen in Decree 555 of 5 December under which amnesty was granted to the fellow citizens involved in the October coup attempt. Regarding this unfortunate incident, it is curious how some sectors have viewed it. Misled by the subordinate ranks of the participating military forces and by the little or no political weight of the civilian plotters, there are some--even after the exhaustive investigations and the confessions of some of the plotters--who persist in minimizing the incident and even accuse the government of inventing it.

The conspiracy existed and, although it may be said that it never endangered the regime's stability, if proper steps had not been taken at the right time to stop it, it could have concluded in a stupid and unnecessary--and perhaps because of this even more painful--bloodshed. And nobody wants that in Honduras. Too much of our grandfathers' blood was uselessly spilled throughout our nation. Their sacrifice, made for false causes and leaders, resulted only in hate and rancor and immersed us in backwardness, ignorance and poverty, as we can see every day.

No, fellow citizens, we will not return to the past. On the contrary, we have definitely turned our backs on it. We have learned our lesson from the past and are facing the future with other arms. Let us now take up social justice as a banner. Let us protect our natural resources as the bulwarks of the future. Let us bring health, education and agrarian reform to the countryside instead of the raucous cry of uncontrolled ambition.

This is the Honduras of today and this is the one we want to continue being our generous mother. For these reasons, because we should not fight with brothers who are misled or blinded by their personal ambitions, we have resorted to pardons and forgiving.

I repeat, if such an incident should again occur, we will- with determination and firmness equal to the magnanimity we have shown--maintain peace and defend the tranquillity we today guarantee to the Honduran people and we are sure that the people themselves will be at our side ready to defend the country.

GOVERNMENT PUBLISHES NEW ELECTORAL LAW

PA041152Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0146 GMT 3 Jan 78 PA

[By Armando Cerrato]

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 2 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--The Honduran people today learned the official text of the new electoral law that will return the country to a constitutional system by 1979. The law became effective yesterday, in accordance with one of its own articles. The text was published in the official newspaper LA GACETA on 31 December 1977, which did not go on sale until today for bureaucratic reasons--Hondurans do not work on Saturdays and Sundays.

The political parties began feverish activity this morning, in part to learn and analyze the text of the new law and in part to try to coordinate their future acitvities based on the new law.

The law states that within 1 year after it becomes effective the political parties must have reformed their statutes to comply with the new regulations and that their leaderships must be formed according to the new statutes.

The spirit of the law is contained in its first four articles, which state that deputies will be elected for a national constituent assembly, that sovereignty resides originally with the people, that all public power comes from the people and that the effectiveness of the election system constitutes the basis of the democratic, republican and representative system.

In this respect, the law attributes responsibility for the correct development of the electoral process to the state, the political parties and to every Honduran citizen in the manner and terms established by the new law. It states that the principle of proportional representation must prevail in the political parties and that these and the independent candidates constitute the forms of organization and the means for political participation by the citizens.

The new law was drafted by an Advisory Council of the Chief of State, reviewed by the Superior Council of the Armed Forces--an organization with military and political power--and finally approved by the Council of Ministers on 26 December. Several articles which favored minorities and reaffirmed traditional points were eliminated. Two of the latter would have prevented Chief of State Gen Juan Alberto Melgar Castro from becoming constitutional president. Unofficially, it was said that these articles were eliminated because they duplicate constitutional principles. However, one of the principal tasks of the national constituent assembly will be to draft a new constitution.

Nevertheless, the electoral law is very modern and permits political parties to form coalitions. It also prohibits the parties from subordinating their actions to directives from national or foreign, private or public entities which are against the sovereignty or economic or political independence of Honduras, its democratic and representative government and the legitimately constituted authorities. In addition, it orders the parties to integrate all the movements that might exist within them. The traditional Honduran parties and those now being formed are plagued with new ideological currents.

The law clearly states that the formation, registration and operation of political parties which proclaim or practice doctrines contrary to the democratic spirit of the Honduran people or which act according to or in subordination to any international organization are prohibited. This prohibition is most detrimental to the leftist sectors, and they will have to continue not to register. The other requirements, however, could easily be met and some restrictions--such as obtaining 10,000 signatures authenticated by a notary public--could easily be met.

Another prohibition of the political parties, which is an innovation, is that they cannot receive anonymous contributions or donations. They can only make public collections. Nor can they receive contributions from the state or its departments of decentralized organizations, concessionaires or enterprises which exploit gambling. They cannot receive contributions or donations from public or private associations without political interests or from persons subject to or dependent on the government. The law regulates the whole electoral process and the national council of elections, which will be appointed by the executive branch in the near future, will be in charge of implementing the law.

CABINET, OTHER CHANGES CONTINUE

PA041518Y El Progreso Radio Progreso in Spanish 1230 GMT 4 Jan 78 PA

[Text] There has been another change in the cabinet of the military government. Shortly, Economy and Commerce Minister Vicente Diaz will be transferred to the Honduran Banana Corporation [COHBANA] as executive president of this institution and Dr Benjamin Villanueva, the present executive president of COHBANA, will be the new economy and commerce minister. They will be exchanging posts.

Vicente Diaz has done a good job at the head of the Economy and Commerce Ministry. Before becoming minister, he worked for many years as deputy economy minister and gained great experience.

Dr Benjamin Villanueva, who distinguished himself in his COHBANA post, has a fair amount of knowledge of the Economy and Commerce Ministry since before becoming a COHBANA executive he was the main adviser of the ministry he will now head.

Lt Col Manuel Enrique Suarez Benavides will be the new president of the National Agrarian Council [CNA]. He will replace Pedro (Pineda Madrid), who has been at the head of CNA for approximately 2 years. Pedro (Pineda) is also a member of the Foreign Ministry's Territorial Studies Committee. Now that the negotiations with El Salvador will be continued, it is likely that this committee will give more attention to the matter.

Lt Col Manuel Enrique Suarez has played an important role as a representative of the Armed Forces on the Advisory Council of the Chief of State. He has also prepared the electoral law bill.

So far, there is no report on who will replace Lieutenant Colonel Suarez as Armed Forces representative in the Advisory Council.

NICARAGUA

FOREIGN MINISTER: NO OFFICIAL KNOWLEDGE OF SUMMIT

PA042308Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2155 GMT 4 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 4 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--The Nicaraguan Government does not yet have any official knowledge of the announced summit of Central American presidents that is to be held in this capital this month.

Julio C. Quintana, Nicaragua's new foreign minister, said today that "neither this Foreign Ministry nor President Anastasio Somoza have been notified about this meeting, which several information media have been mentioning."

According to unofficial reports, the Guatemalan Government is sponsoring this meeting of Central American rulers in order to review the most pressing problems affecting the area.

Quintana, who took over the ministry today, feels that his new appointment "is the culmination of my diplomatic career, which I began in 1963 as consul in Los Angeles, and continued for the next 10 years as ambassador to Paris and UNESCO."

COOPERATION AGREEMENTS RATIFIED WITH LIBYA

FL041500Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1203 GMT 4 Jan 78 FL

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca and Ali Sunni al-Muntasir, ambassador of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahuriyah to Cuba, have attended the ceremony held at Havana's Foreign Ministry offices to exchange the instruments ratifying the agreements on cultural and scientific cooperation and on technical, economic and commercial cooperation between the two governments.

In a brief speech, Isidoro Malmierca pointed out the importance of the exchange of the ratifying instruments. For his part, the Libyan diplomat expressed satisfaction over the state of relations between the two countries.

Also attending the ceremony were First Vice Foreign Minister Rene Anillo, Vice Foreign Minister Jose Viera and other Cuban and Libyan Embassy officials.

CHILEAN EXILES DENOUNCE PINOCHET REFERENDUM

FL050131Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 5 Jan 78 FL

[Text] The fascist Chilean regime will hide the true results of the so-called national referendum which took place today in that country at the request of military junta chief Augusto Pinochet.

A communique issued by the Political Committee of the Chilean Left in Mexico states that Pinochet will hide the true results and instead will try to fabricate the approval [of the referendum], something which will not fool anyone. The Chilean organization in exile said they are convinced that the Chilean people today showed their opposition to the fascist regime, and in this way expressed their will to overthrow the bloody dictatorship which oppresses them.

Other commentaries indicate that whatever the result of the referendum, deep down the Chilean people reject the fascist regime. Any outcome Pinochet announces will be a shameless fabrication to try to improve the image of that infamous regime which each time shows itself to be more profoundly isolated.

BELGIAN GOVERNMENT DELEGATION ARRIVES

FL041555Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1516 GMT 4 Jan 78 FL

[Text] A delegation of the Ministry for Cooperation in Economic Development of the Kingdom of Belgium has arrived in Havana headed by (Bernard Remish), chief of the minister's office. The delegation is also composed of (Antoine Franchuein), general manager of the Belgian Agency for Cooperation in Development, and (Paul Bissel), an official of the minister's office.

The visitors were met at the Jose Marti International Airport by Raul (Taladrit) and Rafael Roqueta, director and chief of departments, respectively, of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation, as well as Victor Allard, ambassador of the Kingdom of Belgium to Cuba.

The delegation of the Ministry for Cooperation in Development of the Kingdom of Belgium will hold talks with Cuban officials to discuss an increase in cooperation relations between the two countries.

RODRIGUEZ RECEIVES BRITISH TU OFFICIAL

FL041510Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1212 GMT 4 Jan 78 FL

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, member of the PCC Politburo and vice president of the councils of state and ministers, has received Jack Jones, member of the Secretariat of the British Trade Union Congress. The talks were held in a fraternal atmosphere.

ROMANIAN DEFENSE MINISTER TO PAY OFFICIAL VISIT

FL041237Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 4 Jan 78 FL

[Text] Romanian National Defense Minister Ion Coman will pay a visit to our country soon at the invitation of PCC Second Secretary and Revolutionary Armed Forces Minister Army Gen Raul Castro. The Romanian defense minister will be accompanied by a high-level military delegation of that fraternal country. During his stay in Cuba, he will visit military units and educational centers, places of economic and historic interest and will learn about the social and cultural accomplishments of our people.

SPANISH LABOR LEADER VISITS CTC, HOUSING PROJECT

FL302000Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 30 Dec 77 FL

[Text] Marcelino Camacho, secretary general of the Spanish Labor Commission and member of the Spanish Communist Party Central Committee, has met with the members of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers [CTC] National Committee, headed by Secretary General Roberto Veiga. Camacho arrived in our country accompanied by his wife in response to an invitation of the Cuban labor organization.

Visits to Alamar Project

FL040032Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 Jan 78 FL

[Evelio Torres Amador report]

[Text] Marcelino Camacho, secretary general of the Spanish Labor Commission, member of the Spanish Communist Party Central Committee and deputy to the national parliment for Madrid, has visited the Alamar housing project in our capital. He was accompanied by his wife, (Josefa Samperosas), a long-time militant member of the Spanish party; and (Ibo Conde), member of the Secretariat of our country's National Construction Workers Trade Union.

During the visit, (Manuel Rodriguez Juridico) of the Alamar housing constuction project explained in detail the microbrigades system and the construction process in Alamar as well as the work presently being done by more than 3,000 construction workers grouped in 93 microbrigades.

Marcelino Camacho is leader of more than 2 million Spanish workers.

HART CHAIRS MEETING WITH SANTIAGO INTELLECTUALS

FL0422585Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2142 GMT 4 Jan 78 FL

[Text] Chaired by PCC Politburo Member and Culture Minister Armando Hart Davalos, a meeting was held in Santiago de Cuba with intellectuals of that province to discuss topics in this area. During the course of the meeting, it was announced that beginning 29 January a cultural supplement will be published in the paper SIERRA MAESTRA with the work being done by that information organ, the culture sector and the National Union of Writers and Artists of Cuba [UNEAC] from the capital of Santiago. The supplement's managing council is headed by novelist Jose Soler Puig, and the other members include Pedro (Arade), Justo Estebanel, Ramiro Guerra, and Eduardo Leyva. Also participating in the Santiago meeting with intellectuals was Jose Ramon Balaguer, PCC Central Committee member and province party first secretary, along with other cultural sector officials.

Upon referring to the upcoming publication of the new cultural supplement of the paper SIERRA MAESTRA at the meeting with Santiago intellectuals, Armando Hart pointed out that this publication has been a wish which now is coming true, which will not only be literary but artistic in general. He stressed that the greatest number of comrades from the cultural sector should participate in the publication since it will serve the existing artistic movement in Santiago de Cuba. The PCC Politburo member pointed out that this cultural tabloid also requires that the cultural and ideological party line always be present and alive. Lastly, Armando Hart referred to the importance the UNEAC affiliate's constitution will have in Santiago de Cuba in the first quarter of the present year.

SOCIAL SCIENCES INSTITUTE SCIENTIFIC FORUM ENDS

FL3020107 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1909 GMT 30 Dec 77 FL

[Text] At the conclusion of the presentation of 25 reports on research work, the sessions of the first scientific forum of the Social Sciences Institute of the Cuban Academy of Sciences ended this morning. The event was chaired by Academy of Sciences Vice President Jose A. Bustamante and Nuria Gregory, director of the Social Sciences Institute.

During the forum papers on history, architecture, ethnology and economy, among many other topics of great importance in the field of social sciences, were presented. The scientific forum began yesterday at the main building of the Cuban Academy of Sciences and has been termed a success of the social sciences, which is part of the country's highest scientific institution.

UJC LEADER REPORTS ON SELECTION OF FESTIVAL DELEGATES

FL0413507 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 4 Jan 78 FL

[Text] Six percent of our youth population up to 29 years of age, approximately 145,000 youths, have been nominated as candidates for delegates to the 11th World Youth and Students Festival, according to an announcement made by Luis Orlando Dominguez, first secretary of the Union of Young Communists National Committee. He also referred to the establishment throughout the country of 32,800 preparatory committees for festival-related work. He also announced that so far, out of the national goal of 50 million pesos, 36 million have been collected as a contribution of the Cuban people to the 11th World Youth and Students Festival.

Luis Orlando Rodriguez mentioned the ongoing preparations abroad for the great youth meeting, and said that the festival preparations are fully internationalized. In this respect, he pointed out that 82 national preparatory committees have been created in the five continents.

BRIEFS

ACCOUNTING SEMINAR ENDS--Roberto Veiga, member of the PCC Central Committee and secretary general of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers [CTC], has made the closing remarks at the national seminar on the new accounting system which was conducted for 200 heads of financial departments from the country's 14 provinces and the special municipality of Isle of Pines. The event was held at the Lazaro Pena Trade Union Cadres School of Havana. This new system will be implemented beginning next January. In his speech, Veiga said that the seminar was directed at solving CTC problems and for a better control of all finances. He pointed out that, as a result of the economic restructuring of the country, the CTC has to assume expenses for which it is responsible. In closing, Veiga urged the participants in the seminar to struggle for a better quality of work, and announced that the CTC will present a diploma of recognition to the provincial bodies which excel in financial work. [Text] [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1514 GMT 30 Dec 77 FL]

CROMBET CHAIRS GUANABACOA EVENT--Jaime Crombet, member of the PCC Central Committee and first secretary of the party in Havana City Province, has chaired the event held by the Guanabacoa Municipality to mark the overfulfillment of its commitment in the collection of funds for the 11th World Youth and Students Festival. Juan Nestor Lima, first secretary of the party in Guanabacoa and chairman of the municipal festival preparatory committee, delivered to Crombet the bank draft for more than half a million pesos collected in the municipality. [Text] [Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 30 Dec 77 FL]

HAVANA UNIVERSITY ANNIVERSARY--The plan of activities of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers [CTC] and its national trade unions in honor of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the University of Havana began with an event at the former Partagas factory in this capital. Speaking at the event were Susan Herrera, on behalf of the Federation of University Students, and Dionisio Contreras of the Tobacco Industry Workers National Trade Union. [Text] [Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 30 Dec 77 FL]

CAMAGUEY FMC MEETING--The provincial meeting of evaluation, election and/or reelection of officers of the Federation of Cuban Women [FMC] was held at the Maximo Gomez Vocational School under the slogan "Always Present in Each Post of Duty." The meeting was chaired by PCC Central Committee member and provincial party first secretary Raul Curbelo Morales and Dora Carcano, alternate member of the PCC Central Committee and FMC secretary general. In his closing remarks, Ramon Cardenas, member of the provincial party bureau, pointed out that Camaguey's women are becoming more and more active in this new society under construction. [Text] [Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 30 Dec 77 FL]

JIMENEZ ANNOUNCES VISIT OF CUBAN MISSION

FL042244Y Santo Domingo Radio Mil Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 4 Jan 78 FL

[Text] A Cuban socialist government delegation will come to the Dominican Republic next week. Foreign Secretary Ramon Emilio Jimenez today announced that the delegation from the Cuban socialist government will come here to formally deliver the remains of poet Pablo Fiallo. The Cuban Government delegation will be in Santo Domingo on 3 February, (?according) to the announcement by the foreign relations secretary.

Vice Admiral Jimenez declared that Dominican relations with socialist Cuba are similar to those existing with the other Caribbean area countries. The foreign secretary recalled that Cuba and the Dominican Republic have adopted joint positions when problems affecting the region arise such as the case of sugar prices. We have always had cultural and sports exchanges with Cuba and this has followed the same course since we have provided them the same facilities just as they do, Jimenez said. However, he added that the diplomatic situation between the Dominican Government and Cuban socialist government remain the same.

Foreign Secretary Ramon Emilio Jimenez emphasized that the Cuban Government delegation that is coming to this country on 3 February will formally deliver the remains of Dominican poet Pablo Fiallo.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, MEXICO STUDY COOPERATION AGREEMENT

FL041926Y Santo Domingo Radio Clarin in Spanish to Listeners Abroad 1905 GMT 4 Jan 78 FL

[Text] Santo Domingo--Mexico and the Dominican Republic are studying the conclusion of a commercial and mining cooperation agreement. This has been reported by Industry and Commerce Secretary Dr Victor Gomez Berges after receiving in his office Lic Rafael del Villar, Mexican ambassador to our country.

BRIEFS

POLICE REASSIGNMENTS--National Police headquarters has replaced Maj Percy Salvador Caminero as police public relations officer and made changes in several police commands. Salvador Caminero was replaced by Col Benito Moncion Leonardo who was police commander in La Vega. Caminero in turn became deputy administrator of La Romana Airport vice Col Felipe Nivar Seijas who was assigned as police commander in San Cristobal, replacing Col Domingo Camilo Rosas. The latter was assigned to the La Victoria national penitentiary, replacing Col Carlos Alejandro Peguero de la Cruz who was named commander of the jail in La Fe. Peguero de la Cruz replaces Col Reimundo Perez Ortiz who became police chief in San Juan de la Maguana vice Col Dr (Noruantonio Perez), who was assigned as police commander in La Vega vice Col Moncion Leonardo. [Santo Domingo Radio Mil Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 4 Jan 78 FL]

INTER-CARIBBEAN AFFAIRS

CARICOM WILL NOT RECEIVE DRAMATIC BENEFIT FROM SUGAR AGREEMENT

FL3116502Y Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 29 Dec 77 pp 1, 11 FL

[Text] Bridgetown, 28 Dec (CANA)--A new International Sugar Agreement (ISA) likely to come into force on January 1, 1978, is not expected to be of dramatic immediate benefit to the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) sugar-producing countries.

The 1977 ISA will take effect on the first day of the new year or within six months from then if governments holding 55 per cent of the votes of the exporting countries and 65 per cent of the votes of the importing countries have deposited the required instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession.

For the CARICOM states and their sugar industries, the five-year pact could be a catalyst for social and economic progress, for earning much-needed foreign exchange, for better wages, for improved housing and health, and above all else, for jobs.

Not Sweet

But the Caribbean position under the ISA is not all that sweet now, as international sugar prices are below the floor because of the high level of world stocks. With this surplus between such major producers as Australia, Cuba, Brazil, Dominican Republic and the Philippines, it may be many months before the free market price reaches the minimum of 11 United States cents a pound.

When the accord to stabilize the world free market in sugar was concluded in October, the New York spot price was 7.5 cents per pound. The aim is to raise prices on the free market so that eventually they will be in the range from 11 to 21 cents a pound.

Output of the Caribbean sugar-producing countries has been hit by adverse weather, labour unrest, indiscriminate burning and transfer of sugar lands to housing and light industries, in various cases. But right now there would be no great impact from this reduced production because the world free market prices are so low they would be selling at a loss.

And if they had the extra sugar after meeting commitments under the Lome Agreement with the European Economic Community (EEC) offering a fixed price per ton that is substantially higher than the current world price these earnings still would not be enough to cover the losses on ISA sales.

When the sugar surplus is worked off, the situation could change significantly and the Caribbean would need to step up and maintain production levels, since smaller quotas could make workers redundant.

For, one of the objectives of the ISA is to promote equilibrium between the supply of and demand for sugar.

Times of sugar shortage and high prices like those in 1974 and 1975 are invariably followed by periods of over-production and low prices like the present.

So far, 30 countries have signed the agreement. The signatories include Barbados, Belize, Jamaica, St. Kitts-Nevis and Trinidad and Tobago.

Material available from the Barbados sugar industry shows that the quotas of the CARICOM countries are Guyana 145,000 tons, Jamaica 130,000 tons, Trinidad and Tobago 85,000 tons.

Barbados, Belize and St. Kitts-Nevis are among a group of 21 small exporting countries with an export entitlement to the free market of 70,000 tons.

Basic export tonnages (B.F.T.S.) for the first two years of the agreement for all the medium and large exporters have been set at a total of 15,905,000 metric tons raw value.

Supplies from exporting members of the ISA will be strictly controlled by way of quotas which will be set at percentages of basic export tonnages of the medium and large exporters, but the small exporting countries will not be subject to any adjustment of their export entitlements.

Exports to the European Economic Community under the Lome Convention are not to be charged against the export quotas of the countries concerned. This means they will have Lome quotas plus ISA entitlements.

Similarly, sugar exported to the non-sugar-producing members of CARICOM by Barbados, Belize, Jamaica, Guyana, St. Kitts and Trinidad and Tobago will not be charged against their quotas provided that the amount of sugar traded within the community does not exceed 20,000 tons.

Under Lome, the quotas are Barbados 49,300 long tons, Guyana 15,700 long tons, Jamaica 118,300 long tons, Trinidad and Tobago 69,000 long tons, St. Kitts-Nevis 14,800 long tons and Belize 39,400 long tons.

LAUNCHING OF CFC SEEN AS 'AN IMPORTANT STEP'

FL311720Y Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 28 Dec 77 p 5 FL

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, 27 Dec (CANA)--The launching of the Caribbean Food Corporation (CFC) by the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) has been described by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) as a significant initiative in the region.

The FAO said in its 1976 annual report, that the significance lay in the fact that during the past three years, CARICOM had dedicated its energies to settling questions of intra-regional trade.

The FAO said that all member countries had signed the CFC agreement, and the corporation would have direct responsibility for a US$450 million livestock programme and for a scheme to establish large-scale food farms in member countries.

"These programes are the first part of a major effort to change the production structure in the region in order to reduce its annual US$470 million food import bill, and help to eradicate malnutrition among the 4.5 million people of the Caribbean Community," the FAO said.

The world body noted that national planning systems in Latin America as a whole had gradually become consolidated in recent years despite many difficult economic changes.

Plans and programmes were proving their worth in the face of the increasing complexity of development, the FAO said, but it added that the process of optimum national development could be fully achieved only through a multinational process.

The FAO said it was likely that the most encouraging developments in the direction of regional integration were taking place in CARICOM which had set up its food corporation.

Still on Latin America and the Caribbean, the FAO reported that the regional average dietary energy supply was now at 105 and 107 per cent of requirements.

BARBADOS

BARBADOS MINISTER: SOVIETS SHOW NEW INTEREST IN CARIBBEAN

FL311640Y Kingston SUNDAY GLEANER in English 18 Dec 77 p 10 FL

[By John Pinkerman]

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, 1 Dec 77: Commenting on evidence of increased Soviet infiltration in the Caribbean, Barbados Deputy Prime Minister H. Bernard St. John said: "Yes, there is a new interest being shown by Moscow in the Caribbean. Beyond that, the geographic proximity of the United States to this area makes it absolutely obligatory that your country take a greater interest in what is happening next door."

St. John, during an interview in an office here where he also doubles as minister of external trade, industry and tourism, was not downright critical of Washington but he seemed to dangle the danger of Russian ambitions among particularly the lesser-developed island nations nearby plus Red-tinged Guyana and leftist-leaning Jamaica. Obviously, he hopes that repeated warnings to President Carter about the Soviet role will bring more financial aid to Barbados and satisfactory agreements on a couple matters of a sensitive nature.

Common Heritage

Barbados has no ties with the Soviet Union. It claims to share a common heritage with the United States and, comparatively, it is one of the most prosperous of the Caribbean nations. However, it clearly wants more help from Washington and its warnings about red activities nearby should not be taken lightly, for instance,

1. Guyanese Labour Minister Hamilton Green said the other day. "Only socialism can fulfill the people's aspirations in the Caribbean, we here have chosen socialism after years of poverty inherited from colonialism."

Actually, socialism, in the communist sense, has not helped his country. It is trying to borrow $100 million from Trinidad and has just successfully begged more aid from Moscow. It has been on the verge of bankruptcy.

2. Jamaica, hell-bent in Guyana's direction, heard its Prime Minister Michael Manley recently say, "the struggle is to change the economic order"-from the reasonably successful capitalism of Barbados to the debacle of Guyana. [paragraph continues]

He added, "it is the main responsibility of this country's youth to study socialism," he was prompted, to some degree, by a diplomat within his country.

Soviet Ambassador Yuriy Volskiy warned Jamaica that it must fight "against all forms of colonialism and racism."

3. Even Brazil seems to find much that is favorable in Moscow. It has increased its trade with Russia from a total of $79.4 million four years ago to an annual rate of $375.5 million now.

Second Part

FL311640Y Kingston SUNDAY GLEANER in English 25 Dec 77 p 10 FL

[Text] An almost comical but nonetheless significant illustration of Barbados' persistent suspicions concerning Moscow was the recent excitement here on the day a Soviet aircraft carrier and other ships were sighted in Barbados' waters. Prime Minister Tom Adams mobilized the only military force this nation has - a 350 man mostly ceremonial regiment made up principally of "week-end" reservists.

Fears concerning this incident subsided, however, when it was noted that U.S. warplanes from Puerto Rico and Guantanamo, Cuba were alert and watching the Red warships.

With these Soviet activities in mind, Barbados' deputy prime minister's implications were clear. He wants more help from the United States. One of the levers Barbados has is the matter of the U.S. Navy base located at the north end of the 21-mile-long island.

"As you know," he said, "the lease on this base runs out at the end of this year. Even though we have good ties with the United States, in the course of living, we must advance our own point of view and the navy base is a subject of negotiations.

"Also, we are anxious to talk with you more seriously about U.S. landing rights for our national airline.

Urgent Need

"And, and we have an urgent need for some kind of bilateral assistance. Under your rules, our per capita income technically makes us ineligible for some of your assistance programmes. But, we have serious unemployment and we need assistance in building a stronger industrial base. We need to develop management personnel, technicians, accountants, chemical engineers and people with other skills. We want to diversify our economy, spread agriculture, our biggest industry, make tourism a 12-month rather than a seven-month activity, expand our factory development. We have 168 plants employing about 3,000 now, but we need help in doing more."

St. John has lots of plans in these directions: the 10-year tax-free lure to overseas industries and the establishment of corporate headquarters here.

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